PEA wants to pay P402M more to coastal road builder

Story below Col. 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

FEDOROVA

- **Miss Universe loses crown** WORLD /A14
- **RP flag raised in SK's Busan** SPORTS /A21
- **Petroleum prices to rise** BUSINESS /B14

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Army launches war to win Moro kids' hearts

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Winning a war without firing a single shot.

With this objective, officers of the Army's 7th Special Forces Battalion mounted "Lakbay Pagmamahal," a two-day educational and fun tour for 60

ARMY / A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, September 25, 2002 ★ 70 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 289 P15

website: www.inq7.net

SC orders arrest of Mark Jimenez

HOW JUSTICES VOTED: 8-3-3

YES

DAVIDE

PANGANIBAN

CALLEJO

MENDOZA

CARPIO

MARTINEZ

MORALES

CORONA

NO

GUTIERREZ

SANTIAGO

VITUG

REMAND CASE TO RTC

QUISUMBING

BELLOSILLO

PUNO

WHAT it means: High court ruling says the Manila congressman cannot post bail and must be jailed pending the decision of a lower court on his extradition case.

Solon says decision not yet executory

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ARREST warrant on Manila Rep. Mark B. Jimenez, whom the US government wants extradited for tax evasion, fraud and other criminal charges, can now be served.

This became possible after the Supreme Court cancelled yesterday the P1-million bail he posted with the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The Supreme Court ruled that Jimenez , aka Mario Batacan Crespo and former adviser of deposed President Joseph Estrada, could not post bail and must be jailed until the lower court hearing his extradition case makes a decision.

It said the constitutional provision on the right to bail applied only when a "person has been arrested and detained for violation of Philippine criminal laws. It does not apply to extradition proceedings, because extradition courts do not render judgments of conviction or acquittal."

The high court said that "in extradition cases, bail is not a matter of right, it is subject to judicial discretion," adding that allowing suspects facing extradition to post bail would make the country "a dubious haven where fugitives and escapees can unreasonably delay (and) defeat the quest for bilateral justice and international cooperation."

Eight justices voted to cancel the bail, three dissented, and another three voted to remand the case to the Manila RTC, which serves as the extradition court in this case. The eight were Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban

SC/A19

A MARKED man. Besieged Manila Congressman Mark Jimenez drops by at the Inquirer Tuesday night to present his side—and more. ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

US target on Day 1: Smash Iraq's air defense system

WASHINGTON—No matter what war plan President George W. Bush chooses, if he decides to attack Iraq, the assault is almost certain to start from above.

Strikes from US warplanes and Tomahawk cruise missiles would aim first to destroy Iraq's relatively sophisticated air defenses, war strategists believe. The strikes would focus not on the surface-to-air missile batteries and anti-aircraft guns themselves but on the radar and communication networks that tie them together.

"You don't have to break every piece of an air defense system," said retired Gen. Merrill McPeak, who commanded the Air Force during the Persian Gulf War.

The US goal would be to own the skies as well as be able to bomb Iraqi sites and provide air support to ground forces with impunity.

The air strikes would be aimed at iso-

US TARGET/ A18

RP plans to evacuate 160,000 Pinoys near Iraq

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Philippine Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla said the government planned to evacuate the 160,000 Filipino workers in the Eastern Province to Riyadh in the event of a war in Iraq.

Should the situation get worse and Riyadh be placed in danger, the workers would be evacuated to Jeddah, Bahnarim said. There are about 1.4 million Filipino workers in the Middle East.

In Manila, Malacañang yesterday announced the creation of a top-level Middle East Preparedness Team (MEPT) in the face of the escalating tension in the region brought about by the looming US attack on Iraq.

Headed by retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu, the MEPT will be composed of representatives from the departments of defense, of energy and of labor, and members of the National Security Council. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople earlier said that the Department of Foreign Affairs was reviewing almost daily the government's evacuation plans for the workers.

Bahnarim said the planned evacuation would be a logistical nightmare, dwarfing what was done during the Gulf War when

RP/ A4

No smoking gun in Blair's Iraq dossier

LONDON—Britain issued a long-awaited dossier on Tuesday saying Iraq had the military capability to launch a weapon of mass destruction at 45 minutes' notice—a charge that Baghdad immediately dismissed as baseless.

The dossier, intended to show why Prime Minister Tony Blair backs the US case for possible military action against Iraq, said President Saddam Hussein was building up stocks of chemical and biological weapons and was "ready to use them."

"Saddam Hussein is continuing to develop WMD (weapons of mass destruction), and with them the ability to inflict real damage upon the region, and the stability of the world," Blair said in an introduction to the dossier.

"His military planning allows for some of the WMD to be ready within 45 minutes of an order to use them."

An Iraqi government minister, however, rejected the allegation.

NO/ A18

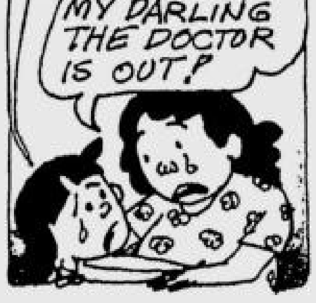
What's up, doc? Moonlighting, that's what

By Armand N. Nocum

WHERE have all the government doctors gone? And why do poor people have to wait for an eternity to see one?

If a well-documented case filed by the suspended chief of the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) against his subordinates is to believed, it

WHAT'S UP/ A4



MOTHER, MOTHER I AM SICK, CALL A DOCTOR VERY QUICK!
SORRY MY DARLING THE DOCTOR IS OUT!

'ROAD TO PERDITION'

PEA wants to pay builder ₱402M more

By Juliet L. Javellana, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Carlito Pablo

DESPITE questions of overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB), the management of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) has asked its board to pay Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction an additional P402.7 million for building a portion of the boulevard.

The adjustment would increase JDLC's contract price from P837.3 million to P1.24 billion, according to whistle-blower Sulficio Tagud Jr.

JDLC was originally awarded a P584.3-million contract in 1999 to build 2.3-km of the 5.1-km PDMB, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard. Shoemart Inc. and DM Wenceslao of R1 Consortium, which built the rest of the boulevard, will get land in the Manila Bay reclamation area as payment.

Tagud, a PEA director, said the PEA management, specifically General Manager Benjamin Cariño and Deputy General Manager Manuel Beriña, submitted to the board a proposal for additional cost adjustments on Aug. 13. The management also asked the board to approve a P14-million landscaping contract to JDLC without public bidding.

Tagud said the P14 million was not approved because of objections from several directors who questioned JDLC's competence in undertaking the landscaping, JDLC nevertheless had landscaped the boulevard, which President Macapagal-Arroyo in-

PEA/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/25/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Blacklist Saudi, bishops urge

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines has asked the government to stop the deployment of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia and other countries with "bad human rights records."

Alarmed by the growing number of Filipino workers on death row in these countries, Bishop Ramon Arguelles said that the government should blacklist countries like Saudi Arabia and Taiwan as OFW-receiving countries.

Arguelles, chair of the CBCP episcopal commission for the pastoral care of migrants and itinerant people (CBCP-ECMI), said that the country should carefully choose where to deploy OFWs because many are put in danger because of the abuses in some places.

"If we have to send workers, I appeal to the government not to deal with countries where Filipinos get low pay and low respect. It affects our dignity," Arguelles said in a Monday press briefing at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office.

He said that Italy and many other countries in Europe need migrant workers and actually prefer Filipinos because of their skills and diligence.

Italy alone would need 100,000 workers while the United Kingdom and United States would need around 300,000 health workers in the next eight years.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, however, said the action would have "a whole range of effects, not just on employment but on diplomatic ties."

Blanche Rivera

Perez gets tough, says Sinos will be charged

By Michael Lim Ubac

MAINTAINING his tough stance on a festering row with the Chinese ambassador, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez announced yesterday that the 122 detained Chinese fishermen at the center of the conflict would be taken to court this week to answer charges of poaching and violations of the Endangered Species Law.

Perez said he had instructed Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to be ready to prosecute the case and "terminate it at the soonest possible time."

The 122 Chinese are being detained in Palawan where they will also be arraigned on Friday.

"We have enough evidence to see to it that they are convicted," Perez said.

Plea bargain

The move came even as the Chinese and Philippine governments began taking steps to defuse a diplomatic row which erupted after Perez demanded the immediate expulsion of Chinese ambassador Wang Chungqui whom he accused of arrogantly reneging on an agreement that would have set the illegal fishermen free in exchange for a guilty plea and heavy fines.

Perez said the decision to take the Chinese fishermen to court had nothing to do with his quarrel with Wang but was necessary to "defend our sovereignty."

Even if he and Wang had not verbally clashed last Friday, as justice secretary he would still have to "assert the right of the Philippines to punish those who violate our laws," Perez said. a

"We should separate the case of the poachers from the complaint I lodged against Ambassador Wang. The poachers' case will not be affected by this incident," he said.

The justice secretary stressed that he would "not allow anyone to interfere in the process that is provided for by the Constitution."

No interference

He said he would abide by what the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is conducting an investigation, decides even as his request to declare Wang "persona non grata" remained.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said on Monday that the DFA was "addressing the points raised" in Perez's request and stressed that his office would "brook no interference with Philippine laws protecting the environment and our own territorial waters.

But he said "we must do everything possible to preserve the good relations we have with China."

China for its part has affirmed its good relations with the Philippines and said the "misunderstanding could be resolved through friendly negotiations."

Patching up

A highly placed source has confirmed that Perez would be meeting with Wang today to patch up their differences.

The fishermen were arrested over the last six months while allegedly poaching in the Tubbataha Reef off the coast of Palawan near the waters of the South China Sea, an area that includes the disputed Spratly chain of islands claimed by the Philippines, China Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. Their time in detention would be considered as part of their sentence if they pleaded guilty.

W

Ople at that time said he asked Perez to release the prisoners but justice officials said the prisoners must plead guilty and pay fines.

Perez's position was that the fishermen "must plead guilty, pay the fines and suffer the consequence of their actions" before being released. He agreed to set the fines at the minimum level.

In a meeting early last week, Wang had agreed to pay $50,000 and the confiscation of the six fishing vessels. Each of the fishermen would also pay P2,000 as fine for possession of endangered turtles.

At a subsequent meeting last Friday, however, Perez said Wang had changed his stance. He allegedly tried to bully Perez into releasing the 122 fishermen without guilty pleas or fines. He said Wang shouted and slammed his fist on a table.

Official call

A Chinese embassy statement confirmed that Wang had "paid an official call" on Perez and that "there emerged some differences between the two sides" over the question of the Chinese poachers.

The embassy said this was "quite usual, and regard this as a matter that could be settled through patient discussion."

Perez said it was important to put on record the fishermen's crime so that if they return and commit the same crime, a heavier penalty could be imposed.

"That's the only thing I want, for our law to be followed," he said, adding "there is no need to bully me."

He noted that Chinese officials would have been able to save on time, effort and resources if they had stuck to the deal.

China's defense boss here today amid dispute

CHINA'S defense minister arrives today for a four-day visit as Beijing and Manila seek to calm a diplomatic row sparked by a threat to expel the Chinese ambassador over a dispute concerning Chinese fishermen detained for poaching.

Gen. Chi Haotian, second-ranked after President Jiang Zemin in the Chinese Communist Party's central military commission, will seek to forge closer military ties and broaden bilateral relations, Chinese embassy spokesperson Ingrid Luo Wang said.

"He is not only a defense minister but a state leader and the visit is consistent with our policy of attaching great importance to the relationship with the Philippines," she told the Agence France Presse.

Ouster threat

The embassy spokesperson played down a threat by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez last Friday to expel Chinese ambassador Wang Chungui for allegedly trying to bully him into the early release of 122 Chinese illegal fishermen being detained in Palawan.

"Our mainstream relationship is good and this belief is not only from our side but also the Philippine side," she explained.

An official at the Department of Foreign Affairs said that during a meeting last Sunday with Undersecretary Delia Albert, Wang Chungui had requested the DFA's help to patch up his differences with Perez by Tuesday, a day before Chi's scheduled arrival.

Chi is the second high-ranking Chinese official to visit Manila in two weeks. Li Peng, the head of China's legislature, visited here earlier this month.

Goodwill visit

The Department of National Defense described Chi's trip as a "goodwill visit" during which he would be holding talks on defense and security issues with his counterpart, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

On Saturday, Chi will pay a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He will also be making calls on the heads of the Armed Forces' major services.

This will be the second visit to the country by the 72-year-old Chi, who will be accompanied by his wife and six top Chinese generals.

AFP, AP and Martin P. Marfil

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Customs scales down revenue target to P99B

By Carlito Pablo

BERNARDO

FROM P115 billion, the Bureau of Customs has scaled down its revenue collection target this year to P99 billion.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said meeting the previous target "at this point, from where we stand ... will be very, very difficult."

Scenario

"Hopefully," he said, the "emerging scenario" by the end of the year would be "something like P99 billion plus."

During a press briefing in Malacañang, Bernardo explained that the P115 billion target was set sometime in July or August last year, or before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

He said the incident, which caused a global economic slowdown, "necessarily rocked the assumptions that we made."

Guidelines

Bernardo was in Malacañang for a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo and officials of the Department of Trade on new policy guidelines concerning customs bonded warehouses.

He said the new guidelines would involve strict monitoring of the warehouses, which are supposed to hold imported raw materials for small and medium manufacturer-exporters.

"Lately, we have noticed that a lot of other commodities go through these bonded warehouses, including finished products," Bernardo said. "It has clearly deviated from the original concept."

Bernardo also said the government plans to set up industry-based support facility warehouses, like those existing for garments and electronic industries.

In the same briefing, Bernardo denied rumors that he was on the way out as Customs chief.

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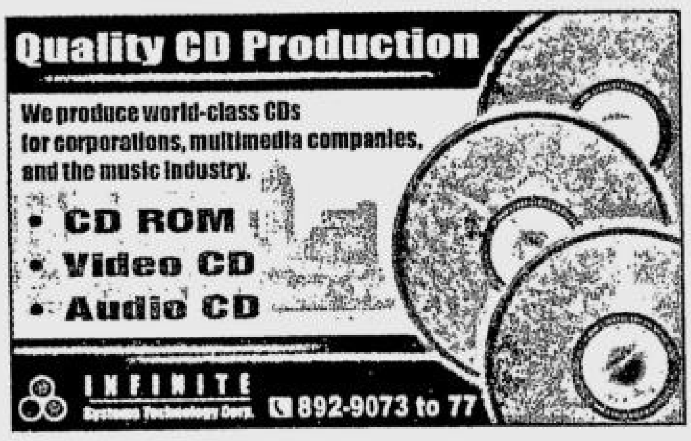
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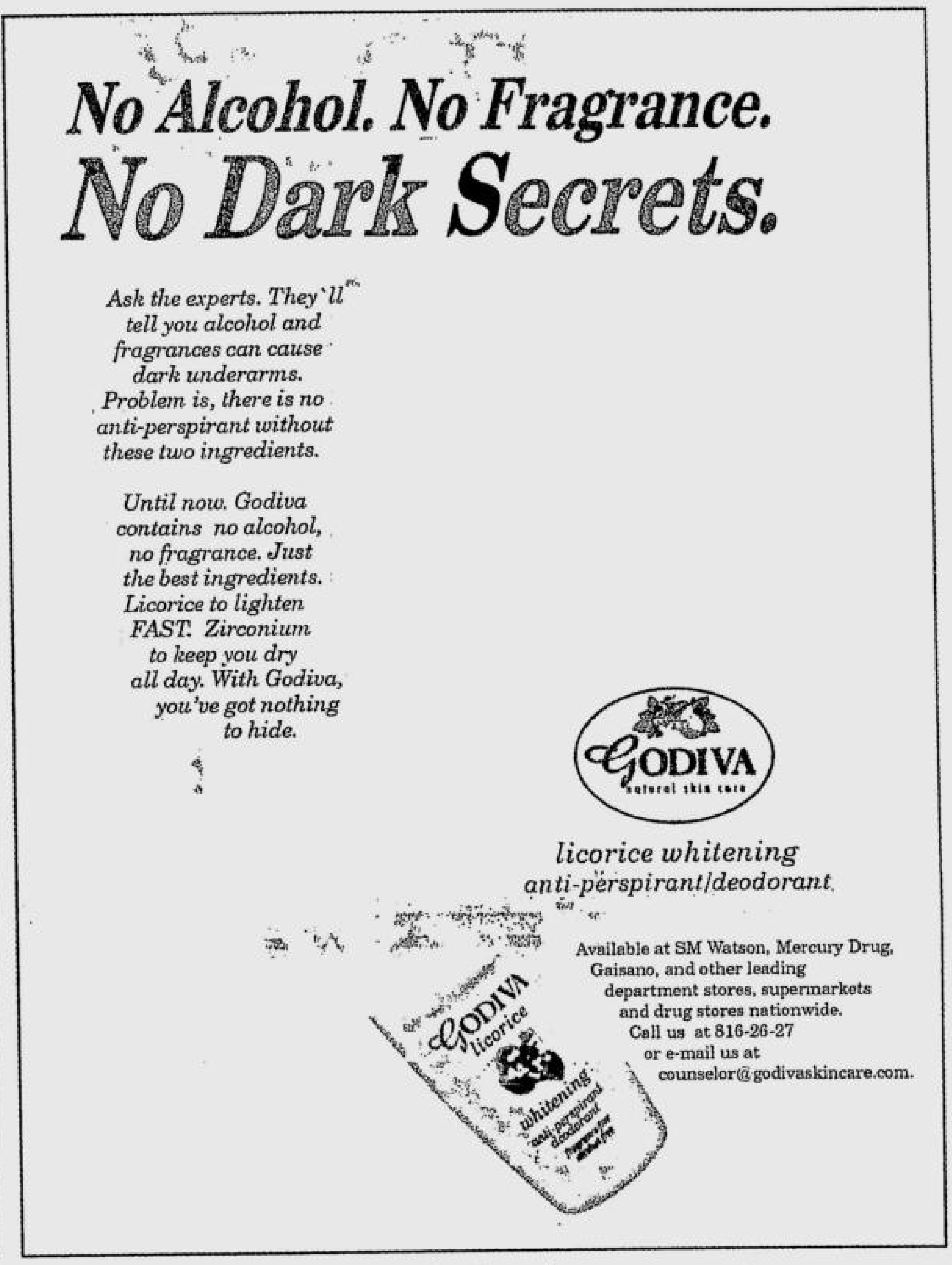
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Per DTI NCR Permit #3418 Series of 2002

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

PHILHEALTH Circular

No. 28, s-2002, dated September 2, 2002

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COMFORT AND SYMPATHY
President Macapagal visits the Ospital ng Maynila where 10 of the survivors of a commuter train-jeepney collision were confined. She handed out cash envelopes to the victims' relatives. One of jeepney passengers died.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Army launches war to win hearts of 60 poor Moro kids

From page A1

children chosen from among the "poorest of the poor" Moro families in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat.

The children, aged 7 to 12 years old, were brought in four vans last weekend to General Santos City's international airport and fishport complex, Dole Philippines' pineapple plantation in nearby Polomolok town in South Cotabato, the Makar wharf and Philbest's tuna cannery.

"Most of the children who joined the tour had not gone to the areas we visited. Almost all of them vomited during the trip from Palembang to General Santos, an indication that it was their first time to go out of town," said Maj. Dennis Antonio, chief of the 7th SF Battalion based in Mindupok, Maitum, Sarangani.

The tour, Antonio said, was part of "Oplan Bridging the Gap," a program aimed at winning the hearts, if not changing the mindset of Moro children from Palembang, a known hotbed for Moro insurgency since the 1970s.

The children were treated to snacks at fast-food giants like Jollibee and Dunkin' Donuts. Antonio thanked the management of Jollibee for giving a 50-percent discount.

At the Gaisano Mall, parlor games and gift-giving activities were held for the children. They received P50 cash gift each from the 7th SF Battalion, and used clothes and toys from other benefactors like fishing tycoons Rudy Rivera of RD Group of Companies, Marfin Tan of Safi Group of Companies, and Pat Amadeo of Amadeo Fishing Corp.

War, Antonio stressed, could not be won in the battlefront alone. "We could also be victors by winning the hearts of your enemies. This is the sweetest kind of victory, for there are no victims, only victors," he said.

"Winning the war through the hearts of your enemies could be considered a herculean task, and to some, it is even a lost cause," he said.

But, he said, there's no harm in trying. "If I cannot win the war through the hearts of those old Moro warriors, I'll try it by winning the hearts of the innocents, the young ones," he said.

Through this activity, Antonio said, "we hope to awaken the consciousness of the young Muslims that Christians are not their enemies but brethren and countrymen."

Col. Alex Yano, chief of the Army's 601st Brigade here, said the children's tour should be a continuing program of the 7th SF Battalion.

"This will help inculcate in the innocent minds of Moro children that there's a better life outside their own impoverished and war-torn communities, that there's a brighter future for them if they are educated and if peace reigns in our midst," Yano said.

What's up, doc? Moonlighting, that's what

From page A1

appears that many government doctors have gone moonlighting in lucrative private practices—using government time and resources.

Dr. Fernando Melendres, who brought the issue before the Office of the Ombudsman on April 12, said these doctors were cheating taxpayers that pay them up to P28,000 a month in salaries and benefits.

"They are clearly defrauding the government of millions of pesos through dishonest means. Some of them have even tampered with their daily time records," Melendres told health reporters in an interview at the LCP.

Melendres filed a case against 14 full-time LCP physicians who specialize in pulmonary medicine, thoracic surgery and anesthesiology.

In his complaint, Melendres included documents half-an-inch thick showing discrepancies between the daily time records and logbook of attendance filed by the doctors and LCP clerks.

Four hours work

The documents showed that some of the doctors have been mostly absent or were reporting at the LCP for only four hours a day, but were not declaring so in their attendance records.

MELENDRES: Case brought to Ombudsman

"Some of them do consultancy work at San Miguel Corp. or hold clinics in other hospitals during office hours," Melendres said. "We have 19 full-time consultants, but you don't see most of them here."

Melendres, who was recently suspended by Malacañang pending investigation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission for allegedly falsifying documents and violating auditing rules, said his efforts to stop these alleged malpractices could have earned the ire of his colleagues who are now bent on booting him out of office.

He figured that moonlighting doctors could earn as much as P6,000 a day if they attended to about 10 private patients during office hours.

When he confronted the erring doctors, Melendres said, some told him that they saw nothing wrong with moonlighting because it was something being done at the LCP since it opened in 1982.

Melendres calculated that in 20 years, the 14 doctors working during only half of their government-paid time could have caused the government up to P42 million in loses.

"Unfortunately...this is also the practice in other government hospitals, although in a less prevalent case than what we have (at LCP)," he said.

Melendres is asking Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to crack the whip on the erring doctors and effect a "general performance audit" of government doctors in the country.

"(Dayrit) should impose discipline on these people who commit acts of dishonesty and dismiss those found to be robbing taxpayers off their time and resources," he said.

RP plans to evacuate 160,000 Pinoys . . .

From page A1

tens of thousands of Filipino workers had to be moved from harm's way in the Eastern Province.

The ambassador outlined the government's contingency plan in an interview with a Philippine media delegation visiting Jeddah.

The Alyansa ng mga Samahang Pilipino sa Ibayong Dagat (Alliance of Filipino Organizations Overseas) offered to help the Philippine Consulate here draw up a database of Filipinos working in the Western Region. The region includes Jeddah, Yanbu and Al-Baha.

Jibreel de Vera of the Alyansa said that of the 280,000 Filipinos working in the Western Region only 15,000 or about 5 percent had records in the consulate.

He said Consul General Kadatuan Usop had been directed to open the consulate on Thursday so that the unrecorded Filipino workers could come to fill out forms. Thursdays and Fridays are days of rest in Saudi Arabia.

The Alyansa offered its services to input whatever data is available in the consulate.

Range of measures

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Cabinet and NSC would meet Tuesday next week "to come up with recommendations to the President on a full range of social, political and economic measures to prepare the nation for any eventuality."

"The MEPT will be guided by directives of the President after the meeting of the NSC and Cabinet," Bunye said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently pledged political, security and humanitarian support for the United States in its continuing war against international terrorism.

The President also hinted that the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 could serve as basis for the country's support for the United States because terrorism could be construed as among the threats covered by the pact.

Washington has accused Baghdad of manufacturing and stockpiling weapons of mass destruction like biological, chemical and nuclear arms as well as supporting terrorist activities.

Ms Macapagal's announcement of all-out support for the United States came in the wake of a recent editorial by the Asian Wall Street Journal lambasting her administration for turning its back on an ally. The paper was referring to an earlier Palace policy statement that the country would allow the use of Philippine airspace by US aircraft for humanitarian purposes and only if the United Nations Security Council sanctioned military action against Iraq.

At his regular press briefing, Bunye said that Cimatu, as chief coordinator of the MEPT, would focus on energy, security and the safety of overseas Filipino workers. "He will conduct regular press briefings to keep the public posted on the situation," Bunye said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Abu bandit slain in clash with US team advance party

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed and another wounded in a gun battle with government soldiers securing an advance party for a United States humanitarian mission in Basilan, the military said yesterday.

The all-Filipino advance party was paving the way for a US team to set up development projects in a village near the town of Tuburan, officials said.

The firefight erupted after five gunmen believed to be linked to the Abu Sayyaf opened fire on the aid workers and their escorts on Sunday, a military report said.

No reason was given for the delay in releasing the report.

One of the gunmen, identified as Sabbadin Sabudin, was killed while another was wounded, it said. There were no casualties on the government side and among the aid workers.

US advisers

A small group of US military advisers are pursuing humanitarian work on Basilan—such as road and bridge building—after a six-month joint anti-terrorism training operation ended in July.

The operation resulted in the killing of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya, but also in the death in a botched rescue of hostaged US missionary Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap. Burnham's wife, Gracia, was rescued.

Security around Basilan schools was meanwhile tightened after the Abu Sayyaf threatened to abduct teachers and students in retaliation for the deaths of four rebels in a military offensive on Monday.

Provincial spokesperson Alton Angeles said the threat was contained in an intelligence report submitted to the office of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar.

"The rebels are now threatening to seize our teachers in retaliation for the killing of four of their companions," Angeles said in a radio interview.

Intel report

He did not divulge other details of the intelligence report, although the Abu Sayyaf group described as terrorists by the US has in the past targeted Muslim teachers and students in Basilan.

Two years ago, Abu Sayyaf gunmen seized a priest and more than 50 students and teachers from a Catholic school in Basilan. Two male teachers were beheaded, while the priest was shot dead after being tortured. The other victims were either freed or rescued in batches.

"We have deployed soldiers in Basilan and tightened security in many areas to prevent the rebels from harrassing civilians," Basilan Army commander Col. Bonifacio Ramos said. *AFP*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2306, Series of 2002

Detergent kills Pinay's ward, 91

JERUSALEM—A 91-year-old Israeli died after his caregiver spread a paste-like dishwashing detergent on his bread instead of hummus, police said on Monday.

The caregiver, a Filipino who had worked for the old man for five years, told police he could not read the Hebrew writing on the detergent's container and served it up when the man asked for some hummus, a chickpea spread popular in the Middle East.

Police said the caregiver called an ambulance when his employer fell ill on Saturday but the man died in hospital.

"We are checking to see whether there was criminal intent or whether it was a negligent homicide," a police spokesperson said. *Reuters*

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Palace sees silver lining in Gloria's falling rating

By Carlito Pablo

THERE are many ways to read the latest Social Weather Stations survey on President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval rating.

Malacañang yesterday demonstrated a few, all of them in favor of Ms Macapagal, whose public satisfaction mark dropped by 10 points, according to the SWS' third quarter poll.

Essentially, the message was: the Palace is unperturbed.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the latest rating of 18 was actually an increase from the President's previous mark of 4 in the second quarter survey.

Big improvement

In a report released Monday, the independent polling firm said 18 was "below the fairly good" 28 that she got in a special survey conducted after her State of the Nation Address last July 22, or between the two quarterlies.

On a "quarter to quarter" basis then, Bunye said over radio dzRB, the last finding is a "big improvement." However, he conceded that, measured against the special survey, media's account of a drop in the President's rating is "also correct."

He noted, "We just need to reconcile (the interpretations)." But even when measured against 28, he added, 18 "is a small decrease."

In a separate interview over radio dzMM, Jose Ma. Rufino, Presidential Adviser for political affairs, said 18, although it is a clear drop from 28, is "still positive."

The SWS' third quarter survey was conducted from Aug. 24 to Sept. 8, following the resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco, the latest hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf, and the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah.

High mark

Earlier, the second quarter survey conducted from May 17 to June 3 gave the President a 4 rating, on account of public outrage at the time over high electricity bills.

Between the two quarterly polls, the SWS held a special survey commissioned by the Crusade for Better Philippines Movement, a group identified with the Palace. This one gave Ms Macapagal a high 28 mark.

Bunye also said the latest poll showed that the people were convinced of the President's seriousness in dealing with terrorism, illegal drugs, kidnappings and corruption, and in her efforts to help the poor, and develop Mindanao.

"If you combine all these," Bunye insisted, "the rating can be described as the usual satisfactory."

But in another interview over radio dzRH, Bunye said 18 was "moderately satisfactory."

Expectedly, the opposition read the survey results another way.

Sen Teresa Aquino-Oreta said it was "a clear signal that the people prefer performance (to) media hype."

She said the "dive" in Ms Macapagal's approval ratings "merely validates what we have been telling the Palace all along. The public deserves more than photo opportunities and tough words."

But the Palace was actually happy with the survey results, Bunye assured dzRB listeners.

In fact, Malacañang yesterday dismissed the claim by another oppositionist, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, that Ms Macapagal was bound to lose in the 2004 elections.

Bunye said that the statement was expected from the political opposition, especially from a probable standard bearer.

"But," he said, "that's wishful thinking—I wish, I wish . . . " *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Palace looks at 66-year-old law as life saver

MALACAÑANG is dusting off a 66-year-old law requiring government to procure products and services from local suppliers over their foreign competitors in a bid to boost the domestic economy.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Palace is enjoining government agencies, including local government units, to adhere as much as possible to Commonwealth Act No. 138, otherwise known as the Flag Law, enacted in 1936.

"If we give preference to local products, naturally this will be an incentive to our manufacturers and definitely, our economy will see a renewed vigor," Bunye said.

In cases of public bidding, local companies with higher bids can still get the contract as long as their bid does not exceed by 15 percent that of foreign competitors. However, he said implementation of the law is not absolute.

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PRC smells cheating in deck officers' test

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission (PRC) will defer the release of the results of the June 2002 Marine Deck Officers Licensure Examinations due to possible irregularities in the examinations, the agency announced yesterday.

A PRC investigating committee concluded that certain examinees obtained "abnormally high marks or grades" in two subjects in each of the three ranks of marine deck officers—Master Mariner, Chief Mate and OIC. The committee also found out that there are "statistical improbabilities" and there may be possible irregularities in the recent theoretical examinations for marine deck officers.

Over 2,000 took the examinations last June. Some 8,000 take the PRC licensure examinations for this profession a year in three different batches.

There are over 200,000 marine deck officers and marine engineers already registered with the PRC as the country is a leading supplier of these professionals in the world.

"The deferment of the release of examination results will benefit majority of the Filipino seafarers so we can project to the world that we are maintaining the high standards of our marine officers," PRC chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe said.

Pending the results of the investigation, PRC decided to postpone the next batch of licensure examinations for marine deck officers. The examination schedule was moved from Oct. 26-28 to Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 25, 2002
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Pro 30:5-9
Gospel: Lk 9:1-6

Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to drive out all evil spirits and to heal diseases. And he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He instructed them, "Don't take anything for the journey, neither walking stick, nor bag, nor bread, nor silver coins; and don't even take a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. And wherever they don't welcome you, leave the town and shake the dust from your feet: it will be as a testimony against them."

So they set out and went through the villages, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Commentary

After experiencing Jesus' evangelizing activity of making people whole and proclaiming God's reign, the apostles in their turn were sent out for the same purpose. In doing their mission they were enjoined not to rely primarily on their own resources but on the power and authority given them by Jesus. Indeed, even and especially in these post-modern times, we need God's power in making our fragmented world to be more sane and whole.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW/COMMERCIAL LAW (INSURANCE)—Concealment as defense for the health care provider—Concealment as a defense for the health care provider or insurer to avoid liability is an affirmative defense and the duty to establish such defense by satisfactory and convincing evidence rests upon the provide or insurer. In any case, with or without the authority to investigate, petitioner is liable for claims made under the contract. Having assumed a responsibility under the agreement, petitioner is bound to answer the same to the extent agreed upon. In the end, the liability of the health care provider attaches once the member is hospitalized for the disease or injury covered by the agreement or whenever he avails of the covered benefits which he has prepaid. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, Philamcare Health Systems, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 125678, March 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

WHO OWNS MERALCO?

Lopezes: We were not paid

THE LOPEZ family has denied claims by former senator Juan Ponce Enrile that they were compensated by the government when they relinquished control of Meralco, the country's biggest power utility, during martial law.

The Lopezes narrated in a statement sent to the INQUIRER the process by which the family patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Sr., gave up "under duress" the family's interests in First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPHC), the holding company for the Meralco shares, to the Meralco Foundation, a private foundation.

"Lopez, Sr. was forced to accept a down payment of P10,000 out of a purchase price of P150 million, with the balance payable 'when able' in order to secure the liberty of his son, Eugenio Lopez Jr., who was in jail on trumped-up charges," the statement said.

The statement was signed by siblings Oscar, Manuel and Presentacion Lopez—children of Lopez Sr.—and their nephew Eugenio Lopez III, representing his late father, Eugenio Lopez, Jr.

"The Lopez family has done nothing we should be ashamed of with regard to Meralco. We are also proud to point out that during the time when Meralco controlled generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in its franchise area, the cost of electricity was the second lowest in the region as verified by a United Press International survey," they said.

Enrile, the defense minister and administrator of the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, alleged in a forum last week that Meralco had been sold by the Lopezes to the government and that Lopez Sr. had begged Marcos in a series of documents and letters to help the group because the firm was unable to pay its debts.

He said it was not true as commonly believed that Meralco had been forcibly taken by the Marcos government so that it was returned to the family by the Aquino administration in 1986.

Oscar Lopez, the chairman of the Lopez Group of companies, said that while Enrile was right in saying that his father, Lopez Sr. had signed several documents and letters selling Meralco and "begging" the government to take over the company, all these papers were signed under duress in a bid to seek the release of Eugenio Jr.

"What happened to us in the months following martial law was something similar to a kidnap-for-ransom situation. Enrile, the martial law administrator, acting for the mastermind of the kidnap-for-ransom gang, was keeping my brother Geny hostage at Fort Bonifacio and military personnel under Gen. Gatmaitan had taken over Meralco and all its facilities," Lopez said.

The Lopez family statement related how the Lopez family reacquired the shares through a long process of arbitration and judicial and administrative review after the fall of Marcos in 1986 and the return of the family from exile.

The transaction for the transfer of the Meralco shares was partially rescinded in arbitration proceedings in 1990 under RA 876 under retired Supreme Court Justice J.B.L. Reyes, the statement said. This resulted in 10,645,047 FPHC shares being returned to the Lopez family.

The group explained that the Meralco Foundation had in 1978 acquired the Meralco shares owned by FPHC on an installment basis for a total price of P872.75 million. It said the foundation made payments up to 1985 when it defaulted. In accordance with the terms of the share purchase agreement, the default caused the unpaid shares, representing the unpaid balance, to revert back to FPHC.

As a result, the Meralco Foundation returned 13.9 million shares, including stock dividends, equivalent to 32.41 percent ownership of Meralco to FPHC in 1988.

The basis of the reversion was reviewed by then Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez and former Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, the statement said. Ordoñez and Teehankee separately gave opinions that it was fair and just that the unpaid Meralco shares should be returned to FPHC, it said.

In a statement, First Gas asked how the company along with Meralco could have overcharged electricity users when their power supply contracts conform to stringent Energy Regulatory Board regulations and had undergone close scrutiny not only by the government regulatory body but also by the public or consumers themselves.

Far from overbilling electricity users, Meralco's power utilities—First Gas and Quezon Power—had even gone through the efforts of offering the biggest cuts in PPA charges, it said.

Napocor denies excessive surplus in power capacity

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. yesterday said the bulk of its supposed excess generation capacity, which is being blamed for the high purchase power adjustments (PPA), is actually a reasonable reserve to minimize power interruption.

In a press statement, Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala sought to belie claims that the state-owned power firm had a surplus generation capacity and should therefore close down some of its plants.

He said that Napocor did not increase its PPA charges but maintains a P.40 per kwh PPA while Meralco charges a PPA rate of P1.53 per kwh.

He issued the statement amid a controversy surrounding coal-fired power plants. Former Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said last week that Meralco was behind the call for the closure of Napocor's coal-fired power plants so the Lopez-owned First Gas power could use the government's transmission lines for its San Lorenzo power plant.

While he was not alluding directly to Meralco, Quilala said the call for the closure of its power plants, particularly the coal-fired Calaca I and II power plants in Batangas, comes from parties who stand to profit from the shut down.

Citing figures, Quilala said the Napocor's generation capacity is actually reasonable and therefore does not require the utility to shut down any of its plants.

Who emptied Velarde account?

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

WHO emptied the Jose Velarde account?

Prosecution lawyers are set to ask the Sandiganbayan Special Division to summon officers of Equitable PCI Bank so they may shed light on the depletion of the alleged P3.2 billion account which now registers a balance of P2,770.

But a spokesperson for deposed president Joseph Estrada said the government knew as far back as January 2001 that there was almost nothing left in the Velarde account.

Raymund Fortun, Estrada's spokesperson, labeled the prosecution's "feigned surprise" as "cheap propaganda."

Senior State Prosecutor Alex Padilla said the prosecution will file a motion today for disclosure on circumstances involving withdrawals from the controversial account.

"We would like to (know) how, and through whom, the (money) was withdrawn," Padila said.

One of the allegations in the P4.1 billion plunder case against Estrada was that he maintained an account under the alias "Jose Velarde" with the Equitable PCI branch in Juan Luna-Binondo, where he allegedly kept illegal gambling kickbacks, embezzled state funds, and profits from insider trading at the stock exchange. The prosecution estimated the total amount of deposits at P3.2 billion.

A Equitable PCI legal officer on Tuesday sent a letter to the Sandiganbayan certifying that the bank had frozen the Velarde account—which had a balance of P2,770.69—in compliance with the anti-graft court's orders.

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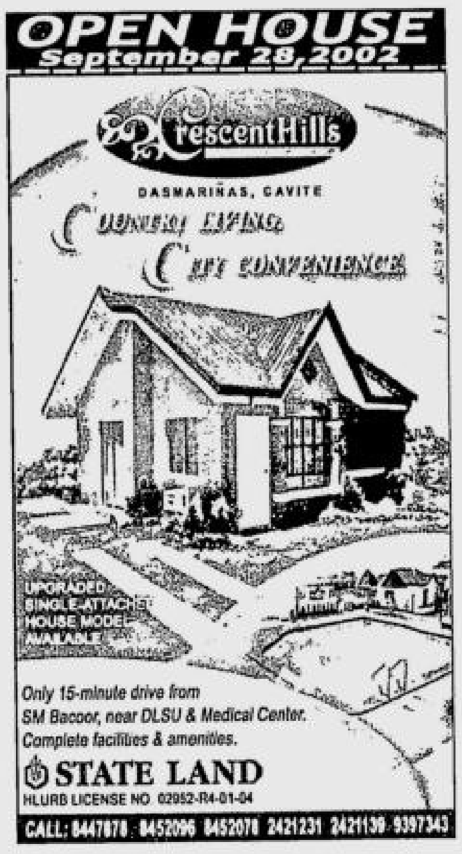
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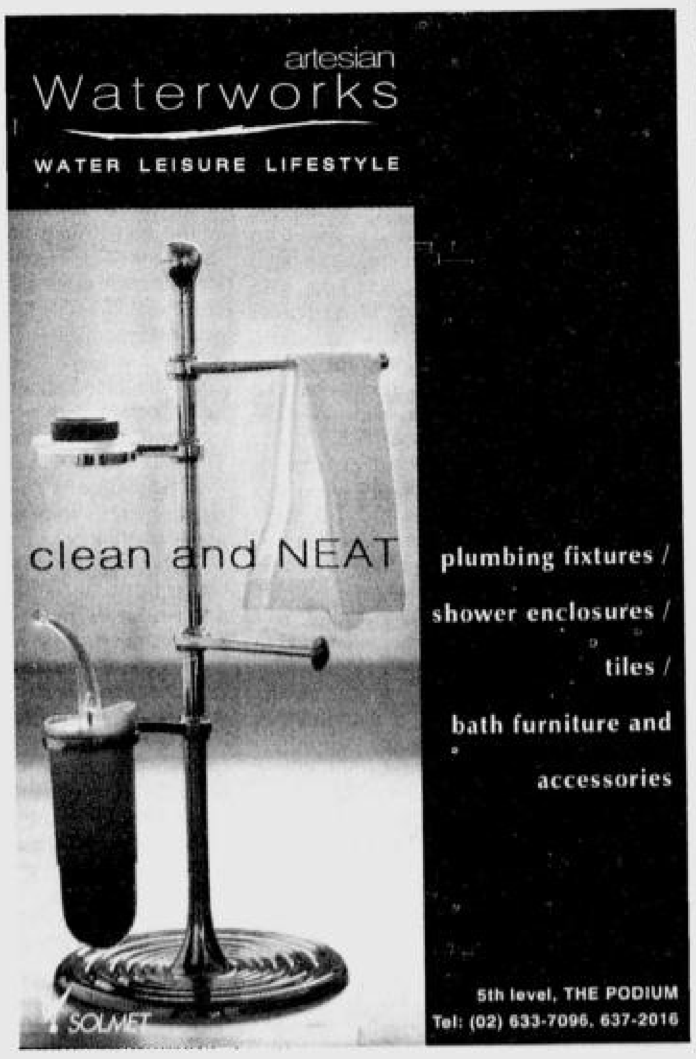
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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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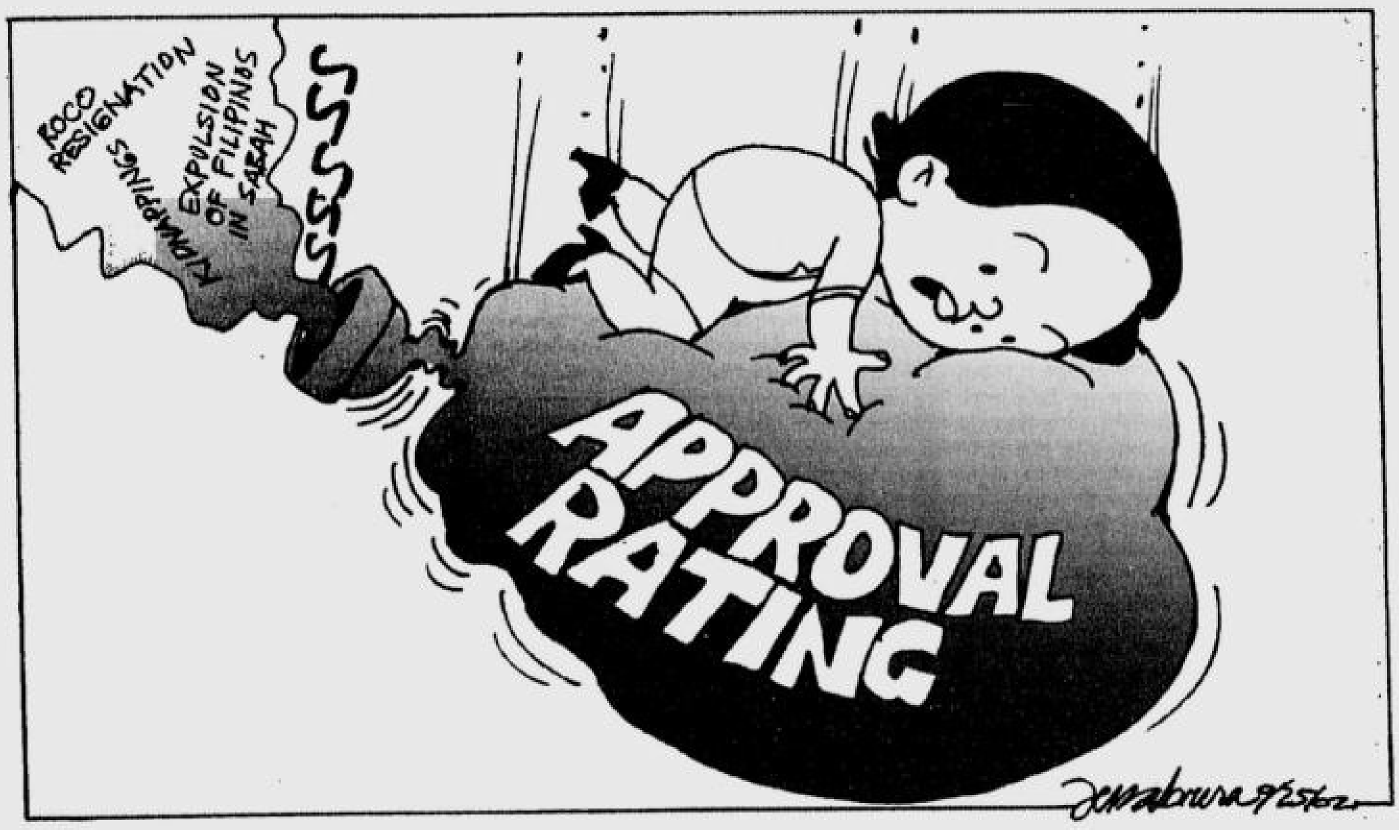

Bully diplomacy

EDITORIAL

DIPLOMACY seems to have evolved from the art of lying to the art of bullying. Or that's how it looks from recent Philippine experience, and always this country finds itself at the receiving end.

First, there was Malaysia rounding up thousands of Filipinos in Sabah, jailing them in cramped detention camps and caning those who were found to be without the proper Malaysian documents to justify their stay in a place that belongs to the sultanate of Sulu. A few Filipinas were raped by guards and some children died while in transit back home. But Malaysian officials acted like no one had any right to protest such inhumane treatment. When protesters marched to their embassy in Makati, Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar denounced the Filipinos as "insolent" and "uncivilized." "Have they forgotten that this is the place that their countrymen are earning a living?" he demanded to know. And our own Department of Foreign Affairs just kept quiet, hoping perhaps that Syed would be kinder in the future out of the goodness of his heart.

But if Malaysia could push the Philippines around, why not China? Perhaps with this thought gnawing at his mind, Chinese Ambassador Wang Chung Gui charged into the Department of Justice Friday to demand that 122 fishermen detained in Palawan for poaching on Philippine waters be freed immediately.

The law says anyone who is found guilty of catching endangered marine species like sea turtles must be jailed for six months and pay a fine of P2,000. If a foreign vessel is involved, its owner must pay a fine ranging from $50,000 to $100,000.

After a lot of haggling, the justice department agreed to bring down the fine to $50,000 for all six Chinese vessels and set the Chinese fishermen free provided they pleaded guilty to the crime of poaching. But Wang would not hear of it. He wanted a much smaller fine and he didn't want his countrymen to plead guilty—a very critical issue since Chinese fishermen have been caught repeatedly committing the same offense. In other words, he wanted the DOJ to set Philippine laws aside and leave his countrymen free to violate it again if they wished. (He didn't even want to pay for the services of private lawyers who were helping the fishermen.) When Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told him it could not be done, Wang raised his voice and pounded his fist on the table. He told Perez he could not understand Philippine laws.

At that point, Perez gave Wang a dose of his own medicine and told him their discussion was over—or so he said (Chinese Embassy officials said it was Perez who lost his temper first). He later announced to reporters that he was asking the DFA to declare Wang persona non grata. "We cannot allow ourselves to be bullied," Perez said.

Bully for him. It's about time somebody stood up to some arrogant foreigners who call themselves diplomats. But how far can Perez really go in his attempt to uphold the pride and dignity not only of his office but also, by extension, his country?

DFA officials have already indicated their reluctance to take up Perez's cause, fearing it would ruffle China's feathers. Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said that declaring Wang persona non grata would be an "extreme measure." It cannot be done "unless the reason is a serious one," he said. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said, "We shall not brook any interference with Philippine laws," but added that "we must do everything possible to preserve the good relations we have with China." And now Malacañang has ordered Perez not to talk about the issue anymore.

So what would it take to make the DFA and Malacañang react with righteous indignation to insults from foreign officials? Perez is the President's alter ego. If the President is similarly shouted at, will Ebdalin still say that is not a serious breach of protocol meriting the expulsion of a foreign diplomat? And what was Wang doing if not interfering with Philippine laws when he tried to browbeat Perez into suspending the application of the laws against poaching and catching of endangered species? Why should the Philippines be moving to appease China when it was China's official representative that treated a Filipino Cabinet member like dirt?

If China values its relations with the Philippines, it should immediately recall Wang. He is no diplomat and he is not a friend of the Filipino people. He can contribute nothing positive to Philippine-China relations.

The Lopez family replies

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I GOT quick rejoinders on the two columns on the three letters of Don Eugenio Lopez Sr., written in 1973 to President Marcos, offering to sell Meralco—three rejoinders as a matter of fact, one from Oscar Lopez, the surviving son of the patriarch and chair of the Lopez group of companies, one from the whole Lopez family itself, and one from Benpres, these last transcripts of two interviews of Don Eugenio himself in 1974 and 1975 with the Philippine News in San Francisco, California. All three rejoinders admit that the old man sent three letters but that they were written under duress since the other Lopez son, Geny Lopez Jr., was then imprisoned in Manila by the Macros administration.

"Sure my father signed some documents and letters that were prepared by Marcos' henchman and forced upon for signature," wrote Oscar Lopez. "What is an old sick man like my father (to) do? His son was being kept hostage and being threatened (with) execution. The business had been taken over by brute military force. Anyone in that situation would sign anything under such duress."

In the interview with Nick Benosa of Philippine News on Dec. 31, 1974, Don Eugenio said in no uncertain terms that "the Meralco sale was a giveaway to save the life of my son."

But his father was double-crossed, Oscar Lopez said, "by keeping Geny hostage even after he signed everything they wanted him to sign."

How did the Meralco Foundation, allegedly headed by Marcos' brother-in-law Kokoy Romualdez, acquire Meralco? Before the Marcos regime, the Lopez family's Meralco Securities Corp. (MSC) owned 100 percent of Meralco which it bought in 1962 from an American corporation, General Public Utilities (GPU) for a total price of $54.5 million, 10 percent payable immediately and the balance in nine equal yearly installments. In 1978, the Meralco Foundation (MFI) which is not a government entity but a private foundation organized in 1973 (without public money and, in fact, without any capitalization), acquired all the Meraclo shares of MSC. The sale price was P150 million, with a down payment of P10,000 (correct, P10,000). The foundation assumed the P101.1 million indebtedness of Benpres to foreign and domestic creditors, plus the P9.5 million indebtedness on the stock subscription, plus the obligation to pay P48.6 million to Benpres on its equity, payable by installment over a period of 10 years.

But this last, due to the Lopezes after paying the banks, was on a "pay when able" basis. The Meralco Foundation derived its income from the dividends of Meralco and used those dividends to pay the First Philippine Holdings Inc. FPHC, (the successor of MSC) for those shares.

"Does that look like a transaction that any sane and savvy businessmen like the late Eugenio Lopez Sr. would do out of his own free will?" asked the Lopez family statement.

"The Meralco Foundation made payments up to 1985 when it defaulted," continued the statement. "In accordance with the Share Purchase Agreement between the FPHC and MFI, the default caused unpaid shares to revert to the FPHC to the extent of the unpaid balance.

"Accordingly, the Meralco Foundation returned 13.9 million shares (including stock dividends) equivalent to 32.41 percent ownership of Meralco to the FPHC in 1988. The basis of the reversion was received by then Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez and former Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee who separately gave opinions that it was fair and just that the unpaid Meralco shares should be reconveyed to the FPHC. A second review was conducted by the heads of government financial institutions after which, the negotiations were reopened with regard to certain terms of the agreement.

"In its decision dated Sept. 30, 1991, the Supreme Court affirmed the reversion of the 13.9 million shares to the FPHC. As a result of that decision and because the FPHC subsequently sold or bought shares in the market, the FPHC now directly and indirectly owns 20 percent of Meralco compared to the 100 percent it owned before martial law.

"All in all, it took five long years, from 1986 to 1991, for the FPHC to finally regain possession of its Meralco shares. Furthermore, the only shares the FPHC took back are the shares the Meralco Foundation failed to pay for."

The government did pay Meralco P1.2 billion. That transaction, however, involved the acquisition by the Napocor during martial law of Meralco's generation facilities only. "The FPHC has never reclaimed those facilities," said the Lopez family statement. "They are, today, still owned by the Napocor."

So who owns Meralco now? Meralco is a publicly held corporation. It is not owned by the Lopez family alone.

"We are but one of the many groups and individuals who have placed their savings and investible funds in Meralco," said the Lopez family. "Customers and employees of Meralco have also been given the chance to own Meralco shares through an affordable stock purchase plan. Through the FPHC, we account for 20 percent ownership of Meralco. The government owns 22 percent and occupies three board seats. There are about 70,000 individuals, corporations and partnerships registered as Meralco stockholders, including about 6,000 Meralco employees."

Lessons in civility

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GERMAN electoral rallies offer no small lessons in civility. We saw three of these rallies, those of the two main candidates, Gerhard Shroeder and Edmund Stoiber, of the Social Democratic party and Christian Union party respectively, and that of Gregor Gysi of the Socialist Party. All provided front-seat viewing and gave glimpses not just into the personalities of the candidates but into the character of the nation itself.

The first thing you noticed about the rallies was that they took place in very pleasant circumstances. They begun an hour or so before the main speaker arrived, and to entertain the audience while they waited, a band played on stage. Stoiber's rally, held in Bonn, had a band that played a mix of rock, reggae and polka (and a medley of the Credence Clearwater Revival's greatest hits, showing how far American pop culture has seeped into the nation since the War). The polka in particular had the audience swaying in unison, and since the bulk of the audience seemed to be in the above-50 category, you saw an expanse of white hair undulating behind you when you turned around. Some of the old folk were singing, some had tears in their eyes. You half expected them to be raising tankards of beer while they sang and swayed.

Beer was no problem in Gysi's rally. This was in Schwerin, which is part of what used to be East Germany. The rally was held in a *biergarten*—yes, a beer garden—which, as the name suggests, offers libation plentifully. A German beer garden, however, is a little different from ours. It is an open-air affair, where people gather to talk, listen to a band—which plays jazz or classical music normally, which allows conversation without shouting—and of course guzzle beer.

I decided to treat myself to a mug, but of the two-liter kind, which made lifting it an exercise in body-building, or at least in (right)-arm-muscle-building. (I drank colchicine afterward.) The beer helped later on when the place, where sunlight streamed through (this was afternoon), turned cold, a fierce wind swirling through the square. But though there was beer, there was no swaying to the music polka-style. The band was a jazz one, which played largely the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Shroder's rally featured a Dixieland band, whose horns caterwauled furiously in "When the Saints Come Marching In." I told a companion that some of the songs sounded like a funeral in New Orleans. There was no beer on this one either, which was held in a town named Braunschweig. On the contrary, security was tight, the guards manning the gate inspecting every bag and person, without exception, thoroughly. The chancellor, after all, was talking. This was in a bigger square, and the wind blew even more fiercely. The beer would come afterward, at a restaurant nearby, which quite fortuitously also happened to be a brewery.

To top it all, the speakers arrived on time, which was completely considerate of them. It said worlds of things about their leaders, not least being that they considered their audience's time as valuable as theirs. They had better things to do than freeze their butts off while waiting. This is something I've never seen in our country, public officials naturally—and wrongly—assuming their time is more important than mine. One time, someone made me wait for a while at the lobby of a hotel. I left after half an hour. But that is another story.

The second thing you noticed about the rallies was that the audience was very attentive. These were not boisterous events held in plazas watched by an unruly throng awaiting spectacle, these were sedate events held in squares with a small crowd in attendance. Stoiber and Gysi spoke for more than an hour, Shroeder, who understood TV more than the others, for "only" 45 minutes. Gysi most of all had the crowd in thrall—he was constantly referred to as a "charismatic figure"—but he headed a largely marginal party, one that wasn't even sure to make it in these elections. Stoiber was the more aggressive, and seemed more at home with a crowd than with media: He got bludgeoned by Shroeder in their TV debate some weeks ago.

But lo and behold, the crowd listened raptly, and clapped in approval intermittently. The speeches they were listening to were by no means bombastic, they were articulations of policy. Shroeder was wildly cheered when he reiterated his stand on Iraq. He would not support US policy there, he said. It was a wonderful sight, from where I stood, seeing people actually listening to speeches. To this day, I have not attended any forum in our country where people listened for more than a few minutes at a time to a speaker, or a serious one anyway. NGOs are especially notorious in this respect. I have not seen an NGO activity where people were not walking around making appointments with one another while a speaker divested himself of his thoughts. It's very irritating, particularly when you're on the other side of the podium. Enough to make you want to join the 19 percent that wants to leave the country. But that is still another story.

There is one last lesson to be learned from these rallies, which is a lesson in tolerance. In both Stoiber's and Shroder's rallies, a small crowd gathered at the back shouting slogans against the speakers. It consisted largely of members of the other party. They were a little loud in Stoiber's rally, their shouts drifting to the area right in front of the stage. They did not drown out Stoiber, the (very good sounding) speakers lifting his voice past all noise, but they could be heard distinctly. After the rally, my Thai friend put it for the Asean group. "If this had happened anywhere in Thailand," he said, "bodies would now be littering the square." These are very good lessons in civility, and ones we would not do too badly to learn.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Diliman fixture

HIGH BLOOD

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

SHE'S all of 101 years old. No, she isn't an invalid.

She's still mobile but uses a cane to help her walk around. She regrets she has only one good ear now. She has refused to give talks about the problems of aging. With one good eye, she continues to sew altar linens. She admits she cannot do the red-stitched cross in the center of the linens. These altar linens, according to Bishop Federico Escaler, have reached some churches as far as "Aparri *hasta* Jolo." She was almost boasting and with a smile, said that being over 100 she can eat "anything"—food which were no-no's, like *tapa, tocino, kare-kare* and other salty and fatty foods.

This remarkable "old" woman is a long retired dean of the College of Education at the the Far Eastern University, Prof. Luz Alonso Zafra. She earned her BSE from the University of the Philippines and MA from the Philippine Women's University. She is the widow of Prof. Nicolas Zafra, of the Department of History in UP. The couple raised their two girls in the old Filipino values. Mother and father were called Nanay and Tatay at the time that most campus children called their parents mama, mommy or mom and papa, daddy or dad. The UPSCAN friends and relatives started to call them Nanay and Tatay, too.

UP Manila, in 1949, moved to Diliman. Among the first to take residence in one of the large *sawali* houses in Area 1 were the Zafras. Their neighbors were Dean and Mrs. Patrocinio Valenzuela of Pharmacy, Prof. and Mrs. Ignacio Salcedo of Chemistry and Dean and Mrs. Crisostomo Ortigas of Engineering. They had built a permanent house, one of the 18 Pioneer Homes which President Vidal Tan permitted to be built and own.

Across the Laurel Avenue, at the corner was the "Little Quiapo," famous for its *halo-halo*. Behind the refreshment parlor, was a low structure of bamboo and *sawali*. It used to be the ecumenical chapel for the US Army Unit that occupied the Diliman Camp. The abandoned chapel now served as a stable for carabaos and horses. Father Delaney who was adviser of UPSCA Manila, continued to be available to the students who were now studying in Diliman. He commuted for a year from Ateneo, Manila to Diliman, helped by Nanay's transportation arrangement. Finally the Jesuits released him from his Ateneo duties. Father now could reside in Diliman. So when he saw the old structure, then a stable, he decided that when painted and thoroughly cleaned, it could serve as the first place of worship in the UP campus.

With Nanay and Tatay, and volunteer faculty members and students, the stable was made ready to use, but a modest sacristy was added behind the altar. He then made a "residence" of his own. We never knew if he really intended not to have a kitchen of his own. He had found a way of knowing more about his parishioners who were all too happy to break bread with this dedicated priest now in their midst. A meal schedule was made to be sure Father Delaney had regular meals.

The Protestants and Aglipayans also used the "chapel." Nanay Zafra became Father's chief adviser. It was to her that he turned for problem-solving. Some priests and sisters were visiting. Meals and accommodations were needed. Some students needed immediate help, like a coed whose father died. Where to get tuition and dorm and board fees? Nanay would come and help Father solve non-religious problems. Lorenzo Reyes, one of Nanay's many grandsons said, Nanay and Tatay's *sawali* house in Area 1 became the "*tambayan*" of the UPSCANs, young faculty, and we suspect some students who needed quick meals. Because Father had no car, Nanay would always arrange transportation for him.

One should not think that to be a *lavandera* is a lonely and lowly job. It is many years later (50 years or so), that GMA did not resent being called "Gloria Labandera." Nanay did not mind being called "Father Delaney's Lavandera." Such a simple man with simple needs. But when he had to celebrate Mass (every day), he had to wear a freshly ironed and starched sutana. Clean thoughts, clean body and clean clothes. Nanay saw to it that Father Delaney always had a freshly ironed, starched *sutana*.

Nanay helped reinforce the faith of some students, especially the coeds, so that they could answer the call to religious vocation. They were inspired by the model set by the man of the cloth that Father Delaney exemplified. Some mothers resented especially the influence of Nanay over some coeds. When the Cenacle Order, led by Mother Dangel came to Manila, she was convinced that a Cenacle Retreat House could be opened in the Philippines, especially in Quezon City. Meeting Nanay, the bright coeds and the religiosity of the Filipinos helped convince Mother Dangel decide to open the Cenacle Retreat House in Diliman. The first batch of Cenacle volunteers were some bright coeds of UP. Nanay's steadfast support of the growth of the religious life of Filipinos grew stronger after the news that Tatay gave up their elder daughter of only two siblings to join the Holy Spirit Order. When Father Ben opened the first Center for Migrant Youth, it was on one of Nanay's property in Cordillera Street, Quezon City.

Nanay's many acts of charity are not broadcast. She continued to be Father Delaney's staunch and loyal adviser. When news of Father Delaney's death reached the campus, many of the UPSCANs and their friends ran to Nanay's house to find out if Father was really dead. Only Nanay could say it was true and all believed.

The grief was overwhelming. Tears were shed profusely by the UPSCANs, both boys and girls, and by the members of the community. There was much weeping in disbelief that Father Delaney was really dead and gone.

To this day, Nanay Zafra continues as our link or reminder of that first happy Catholic community in Diliman that Father Delaney "created to his image." (De la Costa)

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez is the widow of the late National Artist NVM Gonzalez.

Why Filipinos get deported

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—There has been much furor recently over the way Filipino illegal migrant workers have been treated in Malaysia, which is unfortunate because the Malaysians are fellow Southeast Asians and we should be building friendly bridges with them.

Earlier, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which has been cracking down on illegal or undesirable aliens on American soil since 9/11, deported 63 Filipinos under circumstances that were criticized as inhuman. The deportees were handcuffed all the way in the long flight from the United States to Manila. The INS explained that actually, "plastic restraints," not "handcuffs" were used to "protect themselves and others" during the flight. This is just one more example of an oxymoron: how can you protect yourself and others when you are in handcuffs, plastic or not?

Considering that thousands of Filipino contract workers leave every year, often unaware of laws and practices in their countries of destination, deportation or exclusion is a continuing specter.

In a recent Philippine News story, Chandler Ramas III reports that Filipinos top the list of Asian deportees in America since 9/11, followed by Pakistanis. (Mexico leads overall with 66,400 deportees.) Between October 2001 and May 2002, or just six months, 416 Filipinos were deported, excluding the 63 mentioned above. This is a quantum leap from the 479 deportees for the entire fiscal year 2001. No doubt, the post-9/11 crackdown greatly accelerated the deportation process.

Ramas further reports that Philippine diplomats have downplayed the deportation figure "stressing the number is relatively low compared to the 2.2 million estimated Filipino population in the United States." This is an insensitive copout argument. That is a probable statistic but it skirts the issue, and gives the impression that it's bound to happen anyway, so there's nothing you can do about it. This is how hardened bureaucrats argue.

Why do Filipinos get deported in the first place?

The answer is simply, for violation of US immigration laws, if you are caught, of course. It could be as simple as overstaying whatever visa, say, tourist, you came on, or as complex as drug-dealing, domestic violence, murder, robbery, illegal gun possession, money-laundering, or any other federal crime in the books. Since 9/11, deportation cases which have been dragging on have been greatly speeded up. Thus, the bigger numbers of deportees over the past year.

The deportation rate among Filipinos is much higher than it needs to be because they do not opt for American citizenship even if they become eligible. There are some oldtimer Filipinos, mostly from the Ilocos region, who have been in Hawaii for 30, 40, even 50 years, but they have not become citizens for one reason or another. But there are non-citizens even among younger Filipinos, who came when they were children, and are now in their 30s or 40s. They think their "green cards," which entitle them to remain as "permanent resident aliens" in America are already enough. Wrong, and there have been many tragic cases resulting from plain ignorance or stupidity. Consider this case which I know of personally.

Let's call him Ben, now 41 years old, he came to Hawaii when he was 11 after his father was petitioned by a sister, who had earlier married a *"Hawayano,"* the usual route. Ben could have become a citizen after a few years. He went to the public schools and finished an automotive course in a community college. He did very well and earned enough later to put up his own repair shop. He married a half-Hawaiian woman and they eventually had three kids. Over the years his family and friends urged him to apply for US citizenship. Either because of arrogance or laziness or both, Ben ignored all these urgings and advice. Meanwhile, his shop became a watering hole for all kinds of hangers-on, including drug-dealers. He didn't know he was playing with fire. His friends soon convinced Ben that he could "make a lot of money," simply by allowing his shop as the "pick-up point" for "customers." Because he was nice and naive and never had a criminal record, Ben was exploited by his more street-wise and criminally inclined *"barkada."*

To cut a long story short, it didn't take long for the feds to smell something "fishy" in Ben's otherwise innocent-looking joint. They set up a "sting" operation, and one night as Ben was closing shop, FBI agents moved in and turned the place upside down. They found not only drugs, but also $10,000 in cash, and a gun! Three major felonies right there.

Ben could have gotten 15 years or more but his lawyer plea-bargained his case to 3 to 5 years to be spent in a federal prison in Texas. I believe he served the minimum. The kicker was, since he was not an American citizen, he would still have to go to immigration court after serving his sentence. Ben appeared before an immigration judge, who ordered him to be deported to the Philippines. And this decision was not subject to appeal!

So, now he's back in his old hometown in the Ilocos, a lonely, broken man away from his wife and children in Hawaii. It's highly improbable that he could come back because no one who is deported can be readmitted as a rule. There are some rare exceptions, but certainly one would need a lot of money and connections even just to initiate the process of reentry to the United States. Other Filipinos have been deported for lesser crimes, certainly not for the felonies Ben was convicted of. He must certainly rue the day when he didn't listen to good advice for his family's sake. If he had, he would not have been deportable after his release from the Texas prison. His poor mother died while he was in prison, clearly heartborken. It is very sad because I knew this boy from way back. He was nice but naive and stubborn. There are many other cases like his that I know of.

The moral of the story is, never take anything for granted if you are in a foreign country, especially the law. The law is harsh, as the Latin saying goes, but it's the law. As callous as that sounds, knowledge of the law, as well as an educational campaign among Filipinos in the United States on the intricacies of immigration, can dramatically arrest the deportation wave that is causing so much grief and tragedy among Filipinos on both sides of the ocean.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also direct[illegible]ppine Studies.

Changing faces, changing lives

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE BEST parts of the book "The Changing Face of the Filipino: A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines," at least for this non-youth, were the chapters walking the reader past the last five decades during which the Salesians of Don Bosco have been in the Philippines.

Published to mark the Order's 50th anniversary in the country, the book abandons the traditional structure of the commemorative volume and chooses to turn its attention to what Salesian provincial Fr. Francis Gustilo calls their "market," the youth.

"Understanding the youth. That lies at the core of our mission. That is also what this book is all about," Father Gustilo writes.

Fortunately, before it proceeds with the chapters written by experts on different issues that concern young Filipinos, "The Changing Face of the Filipino" takes a lightning tour through the last 50 years, examining each decade through the prism of youthful concerns, fashions, passions and fads. And for those past the threshold of youth, it's a gentle meander through the lost years, the years we lived and loved through and the years we now have to live down, given the outrageous fashions and foolish fads that, as the pictures make abundantly clear, we reveled in.

This is how the book sums up the past half-century of Philippine history: The Fabulous Fifties, The Swinging Sixties, The Storming Seventies, The Electric Eighties, The Nerdy Nineties and the Turbulent Turn of the Millennium.

For someone born in the Fabulous Fifties, the most interesting chapters were of course on the Sixties and Seventies, the years of our thankfully misspent youth, and it was a blast recounting the emergent student movement, the sexual revolution, the Beatles and the Monkees, Gloria Diaz, Tom Jones, the Miss Universe pageant and OPM bands.

* * *

FORTUNATELY for this mother of two Filipino youths, the second part of this 300-or-so-page volume offers "Perspectives and Reflections" on young people today. I have yet to read through all the chapters written by such distinguished analysts like former President Cory Aquino, Senators Jun Magsaysay and Loren Legarda Leviste, Finance Secretary Lito Camacho, Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, "Mareng Winnie" Monsod and even actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, writing on "minors in entertainment." But even just a cursory read offers interesting perspectives on young people's lives.

Rounding out the collective portrait of Filipino youth today are individual profiles of young people whose lives and experiences flesh out the issues analyzed in the essays. The accounts anchor the statistics, reflections, analysis and commentary in real life. They show us how these "issues" impact on the lives of young people, including children left behind by their OFW parents, a recovering drug addict, a young woman studying to be a molecular biologist and two PMA cadets.

* * *

GIVEN my personal concerns, I turned first to the essay written by fellow INQUIRER columnist Michael Tan on "Common Myths about Young Filipinos' Sexuality."

Tan's words prove reassuring to parents, asserting that depictions of young people as "sex-crazed individuals who have no interest in life other than instant gratification" is really "a distorted picture that needs to be corrected if we are to build stronger and more relevant programs that respond to the youth's needs."

The notion that "most Filipino teenagers are sexually active," is a myth, Tan asserts. "Surveys do not support this view," he says, noting how the 1994 Young Adult Fertility Survey showed that by the age of 20 about a third of males and 26 percent of females would have had sexual intercourse. "That is far from the claims in the media that 'most teenagers' are sexually active," says Tan.

With young men and women reaching puberty at an earlier age, but postponing marriage until, on average, age 25, there is an increased likelihood that young people would engage in premarital sex. But, says Tan, the problem is not premarital sex per se, but early sex. "Early sex increases the risks for early pregnancy, for which young people are unprepared, physically and socially. Young girls who get pregnant—again whether within or outside marriage—have higher risks of difficult labor, as well as having undernourished infants."

* * *

EARLY sex also increases the chance of sexually transmitted diseases, writes Tan. "A young female's reproductive tract is more prone to injury during sex, which makes it easier for infectious organisms to enter," he says. Among infected Filipino females, he notes, "the highest AIDS infection rate is among those aged 15 to 24."

It is also a myth that the main reason young people have sex is lust. Research by Tan's organization, the Health Action Information Network (HAIN) has unearthed the fact that the main reason young people, especially young women, engage in sex was love, "or at least a perception of love." Tan notes that "females are more prone to justify sex by saying there was love in the relationship."

Young males often pressure their girlfriends to "prove" their love by having sex, which puts girls in a very difficult position. "On one hand, many young girls believe it is 'natural' for young men to have strong sex drives and that they need to respond to that strong drive as a way of 'proving' their love. On the other hand, the young girls are also fearful that if they give in, the boy may think of them as 'cheap' and not the type of girl one should marry. The burden of balancing 'lust' and 'love' is, unfortunately, mainly on the girl."

US faces battle to win Afghan hearts and minds

NEWS ANALYSIS

David Buchbinder

KARABAGH, Afghanistan—A convoy of US army pickup trucks wends its way through the ruins of Karabagh, a village north of Kabul badly scarred by war.

Mud walls are pocked with bullet holes and craters mark the spots where bombs struck home. Mud-walled buildings, shattered by artillery fire, are gradually melting back into the dirt floor of the plain.

In contrast to the ruin around it, a brick school is being built in the middle of the village. A dozen Afghan workers, dressed in traditional garb, slap on mortar and add layers of dusty red bricks.

Sergeant Larry Moore, an engineer with the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, a US army reserve unit based in Knoxville, Tennessee, steps out of his pickup truck and surveys the work.

The Shelby, North Carolina native, a genial soldier with deep blue eyes and a sandy moustache, is pleased with what he sees.

"This school will be excellent," says Moore. "It's going to do wonders for the village." The US army is spending $101,000 to build the Karabagh school. When it is finished, 1,200 students, boys and girls, will attend classes in morning and afternoon shifts.

"Before we were here, I think the Afghan people believed we were very evil," Moore says. "They were taught that—by people like Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. You still get people who don't like you because you're an American." "But the overall sense is that they're glad we're here," he says.

The Karabagh school is one of hundreds of projects being underwritten by the United States military in Afghanistan.

It is a sign of modern warfare that building schools and hospitals, digging wells, handing out blankets and repaving roads are key components of fighting battles.

Hearts-and-minds campaigns like the one underway in Karabagh are key to winning the war on terror, says Major Brian Cole, a civil affairs team leader with the 489th.

"We're dropping food rations and bombs at the same time, but the humanitarian approach will be the long-term solution," Cole says.

Even though he is enthusiastic about his work in Afghanistan, Cole, who spent 18 years heading up a group in Kentucky for juvenile delinquents as a reservist, wishes it could have been begun long before the World Trade Center was destroyed.

"One thing that I feel guilty about is when I come here and I hear all the stories about the Taliban, about the murders in the soccer stadium, about how the schools were bombed and teachers thrown out," Cole says. "Why are we just now reacting to it?"

The simple answer, one that has occurred to some Afghans, is that US foreign policy is keyed to the cold logic of necessity.

"Afghans see us as hedonistic, Godless, moral-less people, people who are capitalist to the hilt, and that we don't give," Cole says. "Perceptions are hard to change." For Colonel Nick Parker, a British officer who is the director of plans for the task force that runs the coalition campaign in Afghanistan, changing perceptions is as integral to winning a war as any bullet, bomb or rocket.

"The US is not doing this for purely altruistic reasons," Parker says. "If the US doesn't do it, we'll all be back here in five years fighting another terrorist organisation." [illegible] der in Karabagh, met his first American seven months ago when he flagged down a US vehicle and invited the soldiers in for tea.

Derman, for one, is glad the Americans came to his village.

"They saw our children studying under the shadows of the trees, and they decided to build a school," he says.

"The school is a light in the darkness. I have no education therefore I am blind. I hope my children will be able to see," he says.

Mohajer Agah, a 16-year-old from nearby Bitchel village, that has not seen US help, is more cynical.

"We need their help, but they have not helped," Agah says.

"There were some donations that were only for TV, for publicity, to tell the world that they helped. They are here with all their power to help themselves. If they really wanted to help us, they could send a check." The United States has pledged $280 million in aid to Afghanistan this year, but the US army is dedicated to helping Afghanistan get back on its feet by way of humanitarian aid only to the tune of about $6 million this year.

The civil affairs budget for next year is $10 million—figures that are dwarfed by the overall expense of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"All human beings are like this," Agah says. "When something is in their own interest, they spend billions. When it is in other's interest, they spend millions." Whatever the priorities of the US military establishment might be, Derman believes Americans are essentially good people

"Not all, but some Americans are kind [illegible]ed," he says. "I saw an American embrace a child [illegible] face was dirty; even I would not kiss him. But the American did. They are human beings; they love human beings."

Reuters

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Protecting pre-need plan holders

THIS is a follow-up to the letter of Juan Miguel Vazquez, president of the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. (PDI, 9/9/02) in response to the article of Elena Torrijos, titled "SEC records show 18 erring pre-need firms." Allow us at Philam Plans to support Vazquez's statements with our own explanation.

In defense of the 18 pre-need companies identified as "erring" in the published list, may we point out that the prescribed investments portfolio mix only took effect Dec. 31, 2001. Since what is involved are investments and thus cannot be pulled out without prior notice, pre-need companies have been given by the Securities and Exchange Commission two years, or until the end of year 2003, to comply. Therefore, to identify companies in this list as erring and non-compliant would be unjust since we are in fact given a two-year prescription period to work things out as far as our investments are concerned.

Our company, for example, has been identified as having a direct loan above the 5 percent maximum requirement. However, may we point out that as of June 30, 2002, we have brought down our 6.11 percent investment in direct loans to a mere 3.21 percent. As of today, some 15 months before the SEC-given deadline, we are thus, already compliant.

Aside from this, we continuously undertake moves to further make our business healthy and sound, and thus provide further protection to our plan holders:

- We invest in healthy ventures with fixed income, like government-issued securities. In fact, the bulk of the company's trust fund investments, or 93 percent, are allotted to fixed income investments.
- We give a higher trust fund contribution than that required by the SEC. We have set aside actuarial reserve liabilities larger than that required. This is based on the stringent standards required by our international affiliate, the American International Group. In fact, while the SEC requires pre-need companies to allot a 10 percent liquidity reserve to pay for availment of benefits for a year, Philam Plans' liquidity reserve as of June 30, 2002, is capable of paying for 15 years worth of benefits, assuming the company stops infusing funds into its trust funds today. We intentionally made it this way so we will not run out of liquid assets to pay for our plan holders' maturing benefits.

I am sure our colleagues in the industry are undertaking similar moves to protect their plan holders. A fast-growing industry, the pre-need sector enables Filipinos to prepare for a secure future even in the face of harsh times. With a growth rate of 40 percent for the past three years, you can just imagine how many of our countrymen we will be able to protect. Just as we are trying our best to live up to our promises and commitments to them, our only hope is that the media support our efforts by reporting only a wholistic picture of the industry situation.

—ELISEO P. DIZON JR.,
president and CEO,
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Philamlife Bldg., UN Avenue,
Ermita, Manila

Misinformed detractors of labor chief

THE DETRACTORS of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who branded her "anti-labor" for entering into an agreement with employers in Saudi Arabia that allegedly reduced salaries of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), particularly domestic helpers, may have been uninitiated on the intentions the labor secretary and "misinformed" on matters agreed upon by Sto. Tomas and her Saudi counterparts in Riyadh last May 25 to 28.

Our association has clashed with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) on vital issues concerning the overseas employment industry. However, according to unimpeachable sources in Saudi Arabia, Sto. Tomas and Saudi labor officials have agreed that salaries of skilled workers such as medical workers, technicians, IT practitioners and other professionals, all comprising 85 percent of the total Filipino workforce in the Kingdom, should be based on market forces, skills experience and qualifications instead of being legislated. They also agreed that the mandated floor wages be removed so as not to affect their current competitive edge and employment status.

The blanket outdated wage legislation per position category regardless of qualifications and skills of the OFW, results only in the malpractice of contract substitution or salary discrepancies which contribute to the chaos in the overseas employment industry.

The insinuations that Sto. Tomas' act was capricious are baseless. On the contrary they are in complete harmony with, and in pursuit of, the Full Disclosure Policy—a mechanism whereby all parties to an employment contract declare the real terms and conditions in all aspects of the worker's employment—as provided for in DOLE Department Order No. 35 Series of 1996 and its implementing POEA Memorandum Circular No. 6 Series of 1997. This is workers' empowerment.

On this score, Sto. Tomas, lately under siege from militant labor groups, should not be faulted or condemned because what she did was in keeping with the law and rule she just inherited. It was also for the better interest of the OFWs. She has boldly done what other labor secretaries had left unresolved to the detriment of the overseas employment industry and OFWs. Her realistic and decisive actions implementing a mandate prevented the loss of our overseas labor market share and advantage.

Instead of being maligned, Sto. Tomas should be credited for not acceding to other impositions on our OFWs by their foreign employers, and for not sacrificing their rights and protection mandated in Republic Act 8042. She stood firm and pat on these.

—VICTOR E.R. FERNANDEZ JR.,
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National hysteria over Filipinos' migration

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE IMAGES of children who are sandwiched with others inside the boats that ferried out irregular or undocumented Filipinos in Malaysia tell us of a prospectively bleak future awaiting them. Now that these deportees from Malaysia, mostly from Sabah, have become a national crisis, we cannot help but think that we have not learned from the Flor Contemplacion tragedy in 1995.

It is very seldom that the Philippines is affected by refugee movements, which are common in Southeast Asian and European countries. Our country's migration profile is characterized by temporary labor migration and immigration to rich countries for permanent residency. But the Sabah case is extraordinary, and the public's reaction is similar to the public agitation that came with the fate of Contemplacion.

Filipinos are very emotional over the ills of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) whether they are legal or otherwise. Remember those Filipinos in the Middle East affected by the 1990 Gulf War who have yet to receive their claims? Remember the fate of Maricris Sioson, the former entertainer in Japan who died mysteriously in 1991? Or how about Sarah Balabagan in 1995, whose ordeal happened months after the Contemplacion uproar, which shook the national government?

Now we see first-hand the plight of these poor, exploited and abused Filipino refugees and migrant workers. If you look at some of their stories—sexual abuse, public caning, lack of food that led to the death of some 13 poor kids and many others, these are almost similar to those OFWs who ran away from their employers and have nowhere to go in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Or the Filipina domestic workers who also work in the sex industry of Hong Kong. Or some seafarers who endure the hardships of their work, and then get blacklisted just because they asserted their rights with their employers.

Yet the government still employs international labor migration as a strategy for job generation and economic recovery. President Macapagal-Arroyo promised a million jobs—though it now appears that majority of that will be through overseas employment. The government is doing more to promote the sending of more Filipinos to work overseas, than asserting the rights of its own citizens—especially when they are in trouble overseas.

But you cannot blame the Filipinos for choosing to leave the country. The Pulse Asia survey last June reported that one of every five Filipinos wants to leave the country because he sees less hope for its economic recovery, or for the lessening of corruption and ineffective leadership in the bureaucracy. The government capitalizes on this, which is why agencies handling the international migration of Filipinos focus on marketing Filipinos abroad. But how about having a look at the welfare of Filipinos abroad, and the social costs of migration that they and their families face?

Last year, the President told a lady OFW over a radio program that she should stay there because there are no jobs back home and poverty remains pervasive. The returning Filipinos from Sabah are now bearing the brunt of the government's unreadiness to manage the problems brought about by migration. While their return is indeed a sensitive issue, some of the responses of government officials are uncalled for. Go back to Sabah, said Mayor Clara Lobregat of Zamboanga City, "because we cannot give you jobs here." Why do you tell that to your fellow countrymen who, even though they are irregulars in Malaysia, have sent remittances that save our struggling Philippine economy?

The Sabah issue also reflects how the government resorts to reactionary measures instead of preventive approaches. The Malaysian government informed foreign diplomatic officials beforehand that a new immigration law will lead to a crackdown on the irregulars, including Filipinos and Indonesians. One wonders whether our embassy officials in Kuala Lumpur have prepared any contingency plan for this, and informed the Filipinos there of the development months before the August deadline. Now we have a national crisis over their return—and still there are more Filipinos coming back. Even while the crackdown is an aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States (since many states are now wary of suspected extremists, migrants included), the government should have prepared for this long before, instead of engaging in a diplomatic "war" over claims to Sabah.

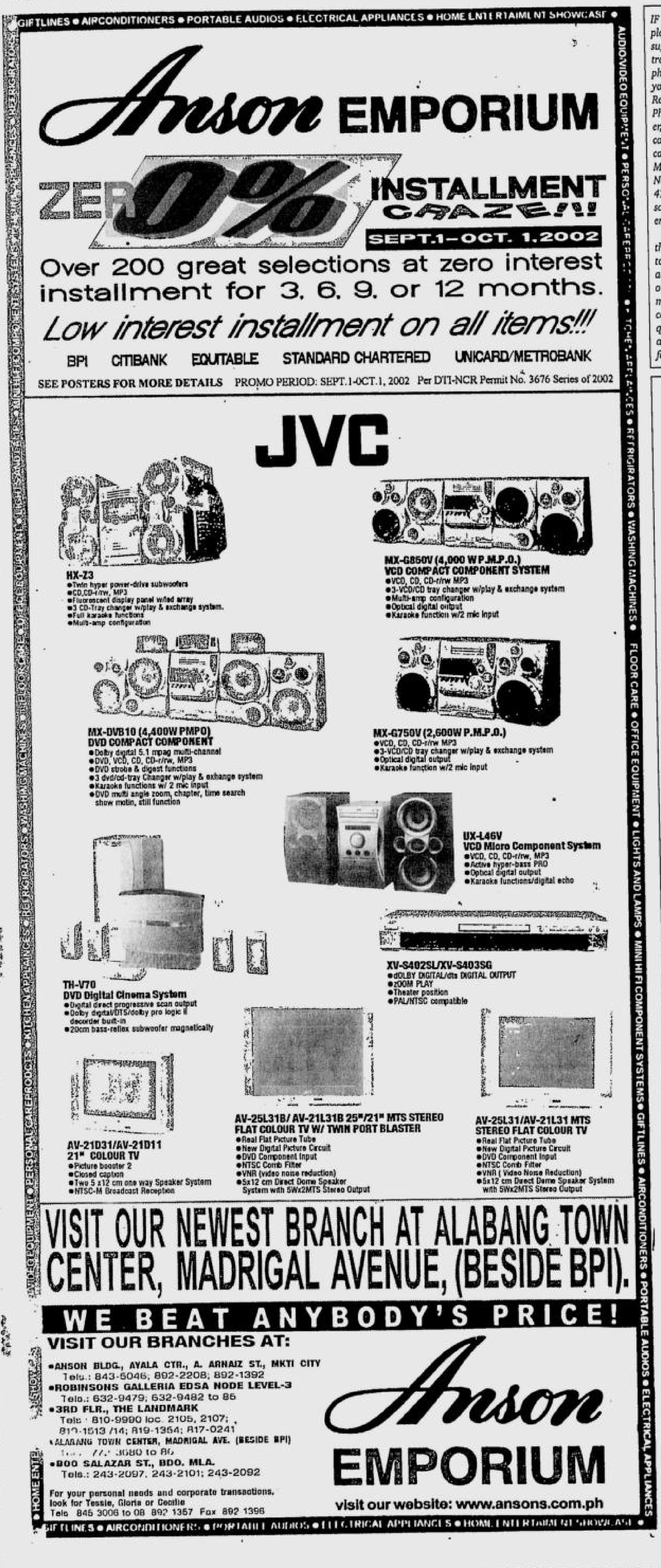
The plight of the returning migrants from Sabah reflects that not much has changed in our government's management of migration, and providing for the needs of migrants, since the Contemplacion crisis. Laws have been made for the migrants, but the government remains weak to stand up for its aggrieved citizens.

Much research has been done on the plight of migrant Filipinos, recommending the government to boost domestic employment instead of sending more Filipinos abroad. And when these migrants demand their privileges and rights such as the right to vote (through absentee voting), the government dilly-dallies in providing these outright. Migrants are even underrepresented in policymaking bodies.

Malaysia is just one of the many countries where Filipinos are in distressed situations. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas told the Saudi Gazette last May that the troubled plight of Filipinos abroad is "not very bad." "I think we should start getting off this thing (that we are pitiful). We should learn (to fight for) our rights and fight for their protection," Sto. Tomas added. Now with the Sabah case involving hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, which is just a portion of the 7.41 million Filipinos overseas, is the situation still "not very bad"?

The nation's hysteria over the troubles surrounding the migration of Filipinos—from their departure to their return—must end. Unless the government learns to listen to the cries of hunger and ill health of Filipino children in Sabah and manage international migration well, expect more of these travails to come our way.

And our fears over the migration of Filipinos will continue.



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The WORLD

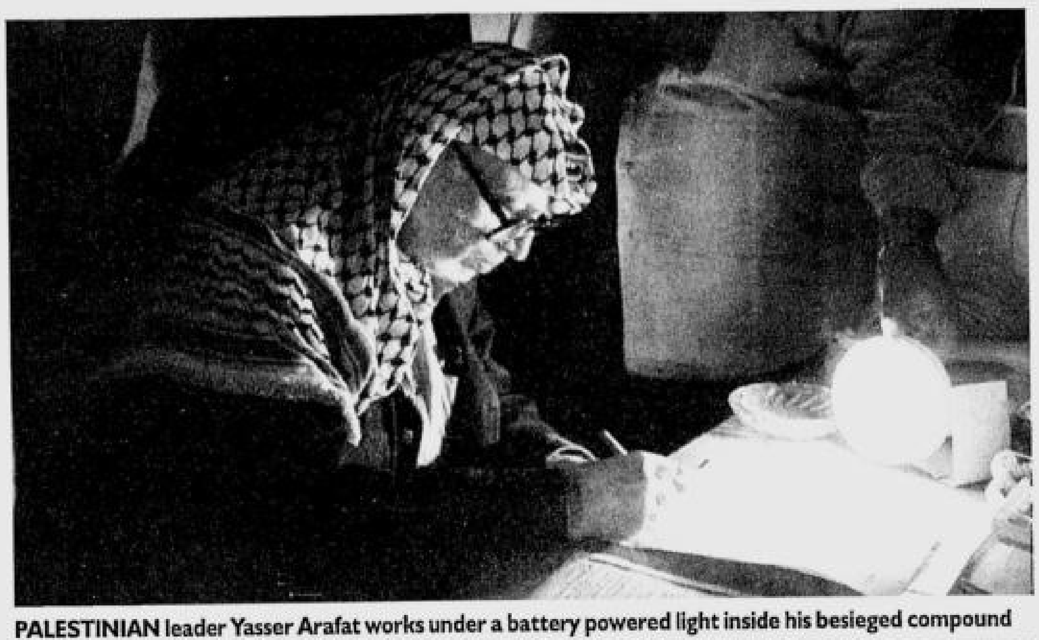
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel Army kills 9 in Gaza; UN says Arafat siege must stop

THE ISRAELI Army killed nine Palestinians on Tuesday in one of its biggest raids in the Gaza Strip and faced international isolation over its siege of Yasser Arafat's base after the UN Security Council said it must stop.

The United States abstained in the vote, signaling the growing impatience of Israel's key ally and the main Middle East peacebroker. Washington is seeking calm in the region and Arab support for its preparations for possible war with Iraq.

Dozens of tanks and armored vehicles backed by helicopter gunships poured into two Gaza City suburbs hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the army, having besieged Arafat's offices, could target the militant Islamic group Hamas next.



PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat works under a battery powered light inside his besieged compound Sept. 23 in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

GETTY IMAGES

Gaza is the main powerbase of Hamas, which has carried out a wave of suicide bombings in the two-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, including the attack last week which prompted the siege of Arafat's Ramallah headquarters.

The army said it blew up 13 metal workshops suspected of forming a makeshift weapons factory, as well as the family home of a militant. The workshop owners denied the allegations.

A military source said some of the workshops made Qassam rockets, which Hamas have fired from Gaza into Israel.

The raid met fierce resistance and prompted gunbattles in which Palestinian hospital officials said nine Palestinians, some of them non-combatants, were killed and more than 20 hurt.

The army has frequently raided Gaza in recent weeks in its quest to put down the Palestinian rebellion, but the clashes were particularly heavy and the death toll unusually high.

It was the bloodiest day in Gaza since Israel killed a Hamas military commander, his lieutenant and 14 civilians in an air strike on Gaza City on July 23.

Israeli media have criticized Sharon for doing little to rein in Hamas while besieging Arafat's headquarters in response to two suicide bombings which killed seven people, both claimed by Islamic militant groups, one of them Hamas.

Troops have demolished most of Arafat's presidential complex since last Thursday and penned him and more than 200 others into a single building as they press demands for the surrender of 50 suspected militants Israel says are also holed up inside.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution demanding Israel end its siege of the compound, using a compromise European text that also called on the Palestinian Authority to bring those responsible for attacks to justice.

US and Arab delegates had been deadlocked on how to chastise Israel for its siege, prompting the Europeans to try to mediate and find a compromise.

The United States abstained but did not use its veto power to kill the resolution. Washington has previously vetoed similar resolutions, but diplomats said it decided not to this time to avoid alienating Arab opinion in its campaign for UN support against Iraq.

Calling the resolution flawed, James Cunningham, the US representative, said: "It failed to explicitly condemn the terrorist groups and those who provide them with political cover, support and safe haven in perpetuating conflict in the Middle East." Earlier, the White House said President George W. Bush "views what Israel is doing now as unhelpful to the cause of bringing about reform in Palestinian institutions." Bush has called for a new Palestinian leadership "not compromised by terror" before resuming talks on statehood.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Israel's battering of the Palestinian Authority was a "bankrupt policy" that bolstered extremists. *Reuters*

21 Chinese pupils fall to their death

BEIJING—Twenty-one teenage pupils died and 47 more were injured in north China's Inner Mongolia region when a guardrail collapsed causing a crush in a dark stairwell, officials and reports said.

The accident happened at the No. 2 Middle School in Fengzhen City on Monday evening when the guardrail of the staircase suddenly gave way, a city official who gave his name as Tian told AFP.

The pupils, aged about 14 and 15, were rushing out of the school from classrooms situated on the top floor of a three-storey building when the iron rail collapsed, he said.

According to the official Xinhua news agency, more than 1,500 pupils were rushing down pitch-black stairwells in two separate school buildings at the time, following the end of after-school homework classes.

"About four or five stairs from the bottom of one stairwell, the guardrail collapsed and the students at the front were pushed to the ground," the agency said.

"The students at the back could not see and carried on pushing, provoking the accident." Tian said most of those who died had been unable to breathe.

"From what I was told, the guardrail collapsed and many pupils died of suffocation," he said.

Building standards are often loosely enforced in China, although most fatalities associated with this happen through fires. *AFP*

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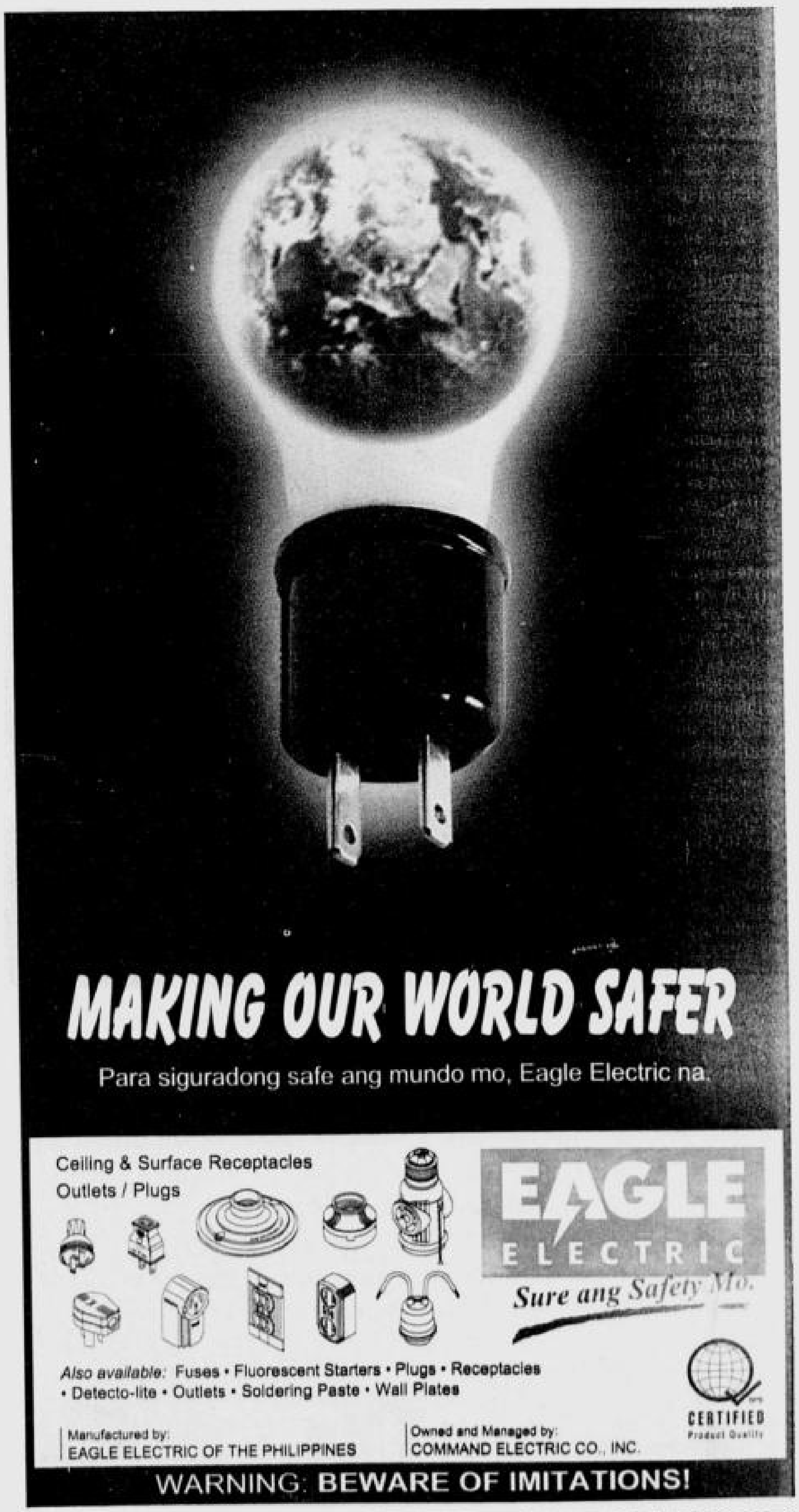

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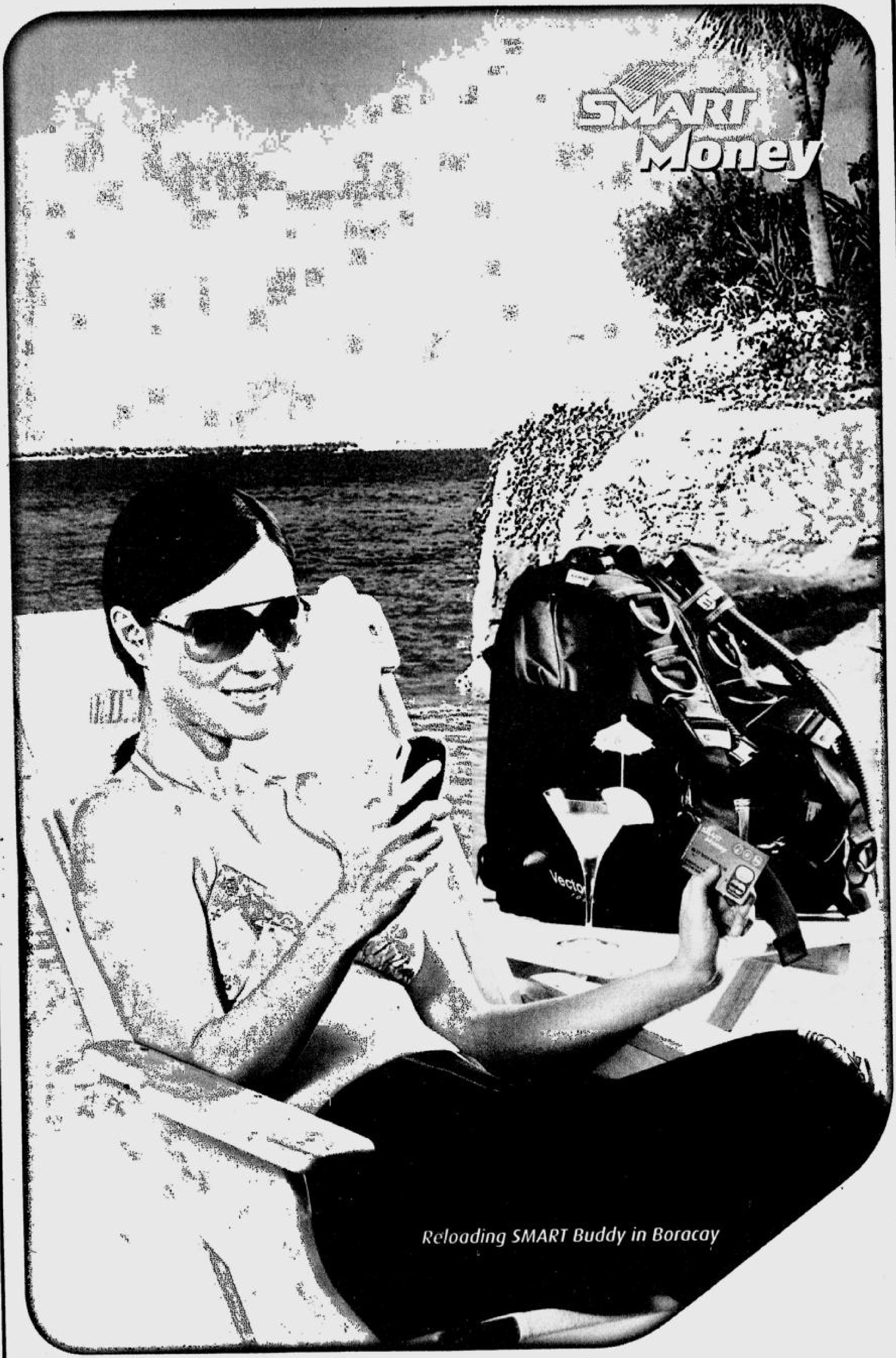

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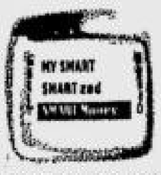

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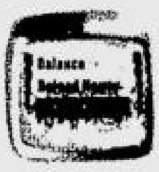

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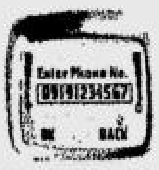

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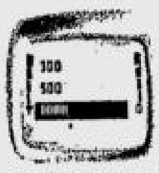

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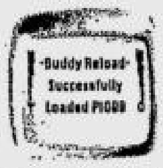

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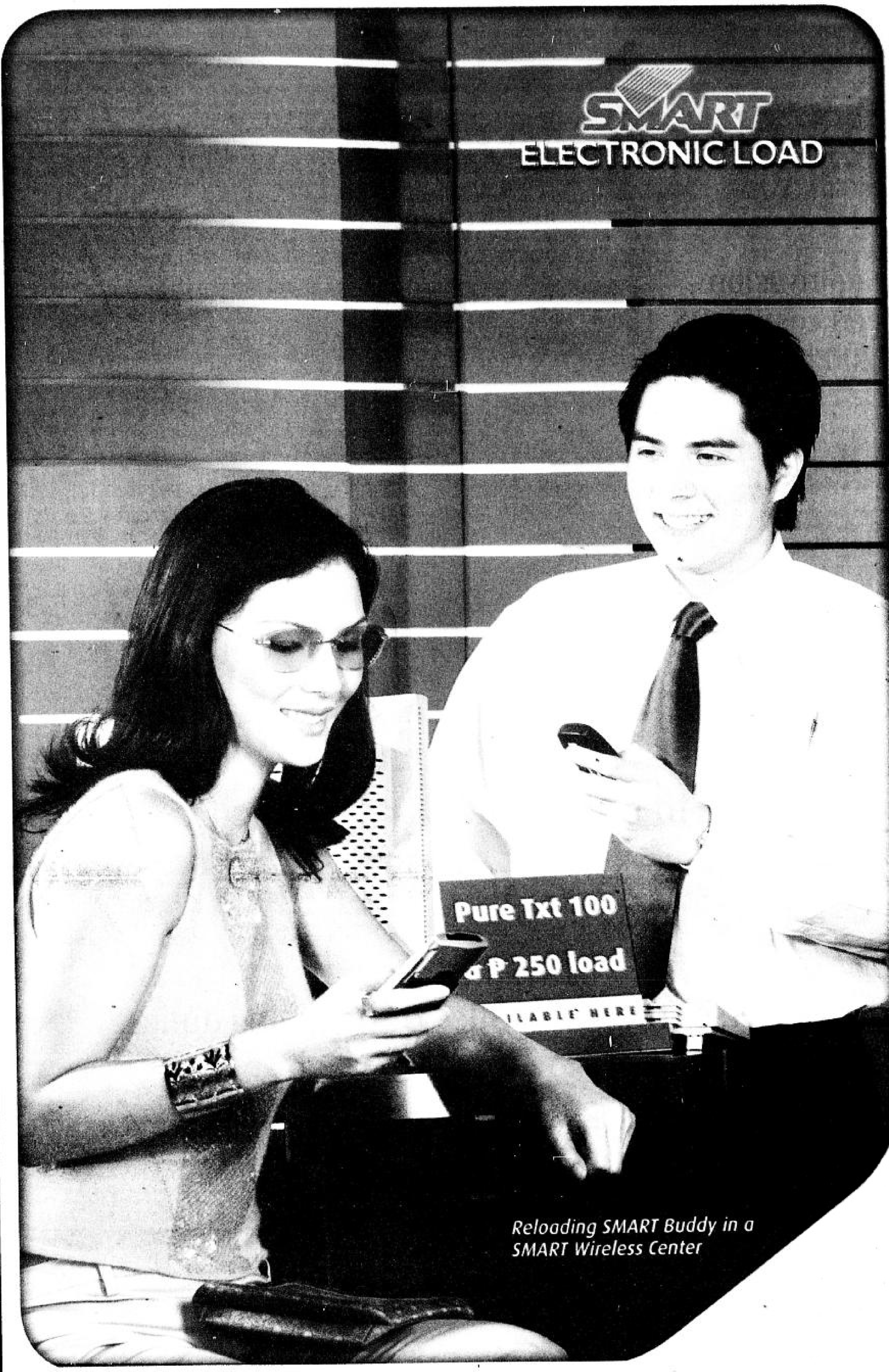

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Gore: Iraq plan will make 'legion' of US foes

SAN FRANCISCO—US President George W. Bush's rival in the 2000 presidential election warned Monday that America's enemies "will be legion" if it embarks on the path of seeking world dominance instead of partnership and cooperation.

Former US vice president Al Gore, who won the popular vote two years ago but failed to gain enough electoral college votes to win the White House, issued his warning three days after Bush unveiled a national security strategy that calls for ensuring US military dominance in the world.

"If what America represents to the world is leadership in a commonwealth of equals, then our friends are legion," Gore said at the Commonwealth Club, a respected San Francisco-based public affairs forum. "If what we represent to the world is an empire, then it is our enemies who will be legion."

The former vice president also said he was deeply concerned by what the new strategy meant in view of the administration's plans to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"To begin with, the doctrine is presented in open-ended terms, which means that if Iraq is the first point of application it is not necessarily the last," he warned.

He argued that the very logic of the strategy unveiled by the White House suggested a string of military engagements against a succession of sovereign states such as Syria, Libya, North Korea and Iran.

"It also means that if the Congress approves the Iraq resolution just proposed by the administration, it would be simultaneously creating the precedent for preemptive action anywhere, anytime this or any future president, as a single individual, albeit head of state, decides that it is time," Gore said.

The former vice president also questioned President Bush's strategic priorities, arguing that the course of action the United States was presently pursuing with respect to Iraq could seriously jeopardize the US "war against terrorism."

Washington should first focus on tracking down the leaders of the al-Qaida militant network and eliminating the terrorist threat to the United States before embarking on a risky new campaign, he said.

"We have other enemies, but we should focus first and foremost as our top priority on winning the war against terrorism," he said.

Gore said the lack of support for an attack on Iraq by US allies could shatter the international coalition Bush drew together last year to fight terrorism following the deadly September 11 attacks.

"Our ability to secure that kind of multilateral cooperation in the war against terrorism can be severely damaged in the way we go about undertaking unilateral action against Iraq," he said.

Gore acknowledged that Saddam poses a serious threat to the Persian Gulf region and to the United States, but suggested that Congress should secure a UN resolution against Iraq before authorizing Bush to target Baghdad.

The former vice president said he believed a draft resolution submitted by Bush to Congress last week, which seeks authority to use force in the Gulf region, was too broad "and needs to be narrowed severely."

He said the president should be authorized to take action to deal with Saddam as being in material breach of UN resolutions.

"But in any event, the president should be urged to take the time to assemble the broadest possible international support for his course of action," Gore said. *AFP*

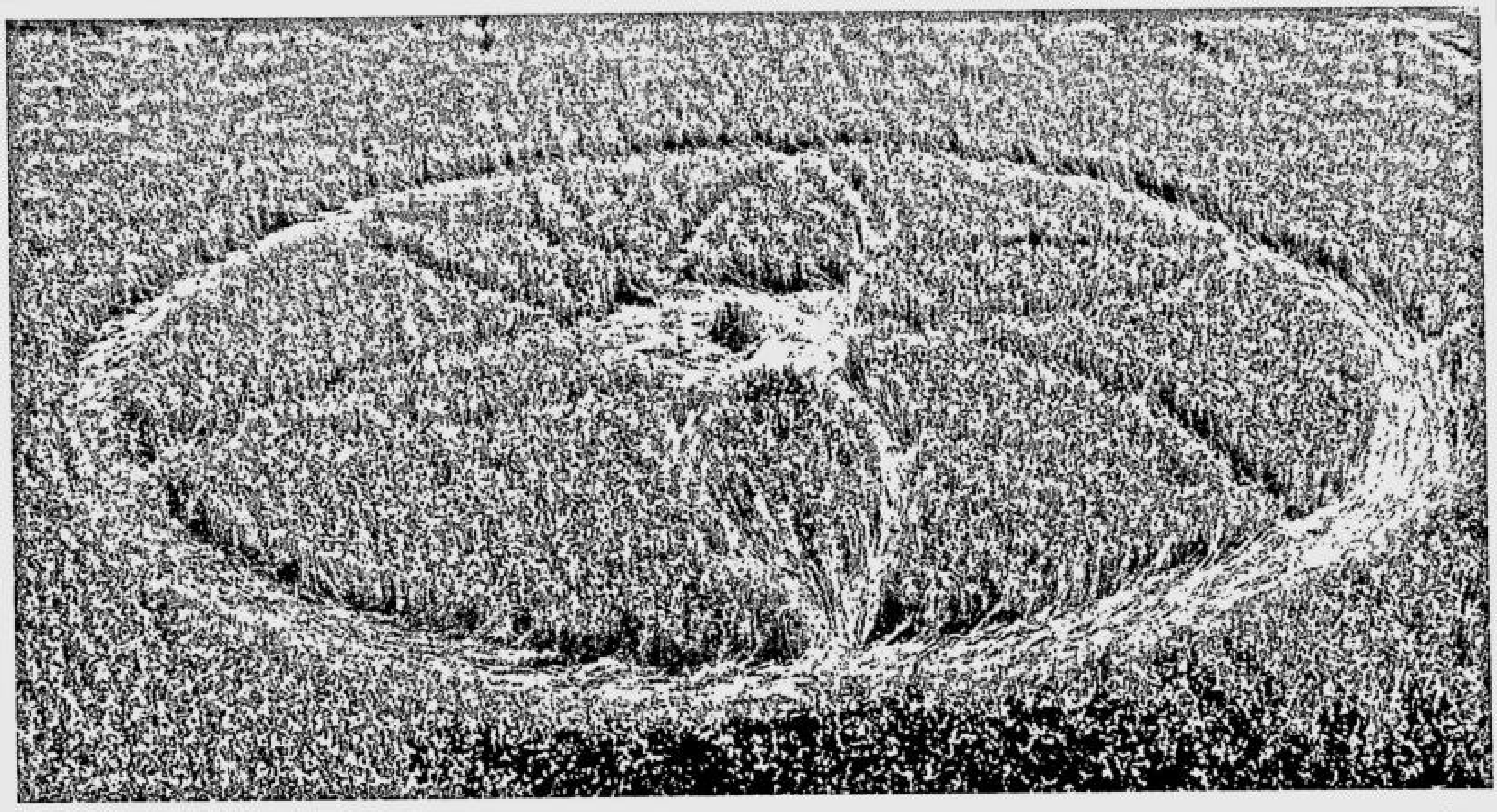
Iraq invasion seen costing US $200 billion

WASHINGTON—A military invasion of Iraq to topple the government of President Saddam Hussein could cost the United States up to $200 billion if it takes longer than two months and negatively affects the global economy, a congressional study has concluded.

If US allies refuse to back the proposed operation, "any new military action against Iraq would have a much larger impact on the budget than did the Persian Gulf War," said Democratic Representative John Spratt, the ranking member of the House Budget Committee, who spearheaded the study made public Monday.

Members of the committee's Democratic staff, who compiled the report, based their research on the assumption that the new operation will be implemented under the same conditions the United States enjoyed during the 1991 Gulf War, fought to eject Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait.

During that war, which, according to the report cost the United States $79.9 billion in 2002, the Pentagon had broad access to military bases in Saudi Arabia and Turkey, could use their air space, while Iraq refrained from use of chemical and biological weapons and many Iraqi soldiers offered only token resistance. *AFP*



REUTERS

MEL, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE

A mysterious crop circle has appeared in London's Kew gardens, Sept. 19. The appropriately flower shaped pattern materialized overnight in a wheat field in the gardens, forcing staff at Kew to postpone this week's harvest.

Heavy firing in rebel-held Ivory Coast cities

ABIDJAN—Gunfire crackled and rockets thumped in Ivory Coast's rebel-held cities as French troops stood by to rescue trapped foreigners including scores of American children caught up in a bloody military uprising.

In the West African country's second city of Bouake, held since Thursday by renegade troops and youths given guns from looted armories, heavy gunfire erupted after nightfall and lasted over an hour.

Rebels in the northern city of Korhogo said they had come under attack by a unit of the paramilitary gendarmerie before the mobile phone network, which has let them talk to the outside world, was abruptly cut off in all the areas they hold.

To try to broker a peaceful solution to a crisis that has threatened to send a surge of instability through the impoverished region, Morocco and Gabon invited President Laurent Gbagbo and five other African leaders to a summit this week.

As well as being the world's top cocoa grower, Ivory Coast is sub-Saharan Africa's third biggest economy, the engine of the French-backed West African CFA franc currency zone and a vital port for landlocked countries to the north.

First signs of contacts by both the government and rebels with former colonial power France appeared to hold out hopes on Monday that a way might be found out of the crisis.

But there was little sign of rapprochement in the shooting that broke out after nightfall in Bouake and terrified the people of the hilly market center of more than half a million. *Reuters*

Miffed US snubs Schroeder's win

WASHINGTON—Deeply angered by perceived anti-US campaign tactics used by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, the United States on Monday snubbed his election win saying he would have a lot of work to heal poisoned ties.

Schroeder's strong opposition to military action against Iraq and an alleged comment by the former justice minister comparing President George W. Bush's tactics to those of Adolf Hitler offended the White House.

The government gave a cool official reaction to Schroeder's win in Sunday's election and a senior White House official said it would take a considerable effort by Germany "to improve relations, which have been damaged between the governments." "Schroeder and his government have a lot of work to repair the damage that he did by his excesses during the campaign," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer ignored questions on whether Bush had contacted Schroeder and officials said the president had no plans to congratulate him.

The official reaction to the German election came in what one senior official described as a "very terse" comment by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher which did not mention Schroeder by name.

"Voters of Germany have spoken clearly through a democratic process and we look forward to working with the German government on issues of common interest," Boucher told reporters. *AFP*

Miss Universe stripped of title 'for not doing duties'

DETHRONED—Russia's Oxana Fedorova

ENTHRONED—Panama's Justine Pasek

LOS ANGELES—Miss Universe pageant officials have "fired" the reigning Miss Universe, Russian cop Oxana Fedorova, and will replace her with Miss Panama, the runner-up, a spokeswoman for the pageant said on Monday.

The raven-haired Fedorova, who delighted Russians when she was portrayed there as a sharpshooting St. Petersburg police lieutenant in addition to being a beauty queen and post-graduate university student with a law degree, has returned home, the spokeswoman said.

Fedorova, who was chosen over 74 other candidates at the pageant in May, will be replaced by "crowd favorite" Justine Pasek of Panama, the spokeswoman said.

It marked the first time in the pageant's 52-year history that a Miss Universe has been stripped of her title, and Fedorova had been the first Miss Russia to win the crown.

Organizers of the pageant, which is co-owned by New York real estate mogul Donald Trump, scheduled a press conference for Tuesday in New York to announce the switch.

The spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the reasons for the change but a source close to the matter said that the green-eyed Fedorova had failed to carry out the responsibilities of Miss Universe.

"Basically, she was fired for not fulfilling her duties," the source said. "It's just like if you have a job to do. If you don't do your job you can get fired."

The source declined to comment on a report in the New York Post newspaper that officials were concerned that Fedorova might have "secretly" married her boyfriend, in violation of pageant rules, and could even be pregnant.

"It's too bad it didn't work out better with Oxana but our new Miss Universe is equally beautiful and she is a tremendous crowd pleaser," Trump told the Post. Trump's spokesperson said he would not comment further until after the press conference.

The Post reported that Fedorova was expected to travel extensively and make personal appearances as part of her reign but refused to take part in a number of those assignments, including the 2002 Miss Teen USA Competition.

Fedorova was bestowed with the diamond- and pearl-encrusted crown on May 29 in Puerto Rico. In second place was Pasek, followed by Miss China, Ling Zhuo. *Reuters*

JOSS FOR DEAR DEPARTED AP

A Cambodian girl holds incense sticks and prays to her ancestors inside a Buddhist pagoda in Phnom Penh Sept. 24. Cambodian people will spend the next two weeks visiting pagodas to honor their ancestors during the Pchum Ben, or Festival of the Dead.

N. Korea enlists taipan to manage economic zone

SEOUL—North Korea has appointed a wealthy Chinese businessman to manage a new economic zone with far-reaching autonomy, underscoring leader Kim Jong-il's apparent intent to follow communist China's market economy reform path.

The establishment of the Sinuiju economic zone, North Korea's second such enclave, was announced last week amid an unprecedented series of contacts between the two Koreas and a historic summit between the leaders of North Korea and Japan.

Analysts take the combination of diplomatic outreach and embryonic economic reforms as a sign the country US President George W. Bush has labelled part of an "axis of evil" is moving away from five decades of isolationism and militant communism.

The businessman chosen to lead the zone, Chinese-born Dutch national Yang Bin, told CNN from North Korea the Sinuiju zone which borders China "will be a totally capitalist region."

"It will have its own legislative, judicial and executive powers without any interference from the central government," the agro-business executive told the US television news network.

Forbes magazine named Yang, a former Chinese navy officer educated in the Netherlands, as the second richest businessman in China last year, with estimated personal wealth of $900 million.

He told a news conference in the North Korean capital Pyongyang on Monday he would be chief executive of the special financial and commercial zone, which lies just across the river from Dandong in northeastern China.

The Sinuiju zone would have its own legislators, more than half of whom would be foreigners, and its own courts with a European as chief judge, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post quoted Yang as saying.

A wall would be erected to divide the capitalist region from the rest of the country and some 500,000 people living in the area would be forced to move out over the next two years.

Yang said 200,000 migrants would be brought in, including young and skilled people from North Korea and China, to work in the zone's main businesses of industry, finance and processing of export goods. US dollars will be used as its currency.

North Korea set up a special economic zone in Rajin-Sonbong near its border with Russia and China in the early 1990s.

The scheme has largely been seen as a flop, drawing only $140 million in actual investment, a small fraction of its target. South Korean economists have said the area's remoteness and heavy government interference were the chief causes for the debacle. *Reuters*

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PUERTO PRINCESA RECALL POLLS

SC stops proclamation of winner

By Michael Lim Ubac *in Manila*
and Dominique Monera-Tabora
and Ruelle Albert Castro
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the Commission on Elections to cease and desist from proclaiming any winning candidate in yesterday's recall elections for the mayor of Puerto Princesa City.

In a full court resolution, the high tribunal issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the winner in the recall elections from assuming the city's highest elected post.

The resolution, promulgated yesterday, was signed by SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno on behalf of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

The TRO, however, did not bar the Comelec from proceeding with the elections.

Acting on the very urgent petition for certiorari and prohibition with preliminary injunction and prayer for temporary restraining order, the court also resolved to require respondents Comelec and former Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn to comment within 10 days on a petition questioning the legality of the electoral exercise.

The high court ordered the petitioners-Ma. Flores Adovo, Mercy Gilo and Bienvenido Ollave Sr. to post a P20,000-bail bond. "Failure to post the same within the aforesaid period will result in the automatic lifting of the temporary restraining order," the SC said.

Peaceful elections

In Puerto Princesa City, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, in an interview, said Comelec will follow the SC order.

"No proclamation will be made upon the completion of the canvassing," Abalos assured.

The recall election here was generally peaceful despite some vote-buying reports in some barangays until two hours before the closing of the precincts when news of the SC order spread like wildfire.

Abalos, however, declined to comment on the implication of the order if the person who sought the disqualification led the race.

"Mayor Socrates will remain the mayor until the recall election is completed," he said.

Abalos stressed that the recall election is only completed after a winner is declared following the election proper.

He added that the situation is novel since this is not a common election.

The Comelec chief also admitted that there could be a problem if Hagedorn leads the race but later found disqualified to run.

Abalos also clarified the issue of a presumed political power play in the recall election since Hagedorn is identified with the Estrada camp.

"I hope that the people will not see the situation badly. The administration has nothing to do with this," he said.

As of press time, mayoral candidate and former city mayor Edward Hagedorn was leading the race with a marginal lead over incumbent mayor Dennis Socrates.

Abalos said only minor election-related incidents were reported to them. He commended the political leaders for restraining from illegal acts.

Residents were surprised to hear about the SC decision. Acting Comelec city officer Jocelyn Pastrano quickly announced over the radio that the tabulation of votes would be done in an open and public canvassing rule.

The final results, however, will not be shown by Comelec until the TRO is lifted.

The recall elections were earlier scheduled by Comelec last Sept. 7, but was stopped by the high court in a full court resolution issued on Sept. 3.

In its earlier resolution, the SC enjoined Comelec and the Preparatory Recall Assembly of Puerto Princesa City from pushing through with the recall elections against Socrates.

By issuing the TRO, the high court held in abeyance the conduct of the recall polls until after Comelec shall have given candidates an additional 15 days from Sept. 7 to campaign.

ABALOS

Vice mayor gets 7 years for gun rap

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A judge here on Tuesday sentenced Vice Mayor Andres Camania of Alfonso Castañeda town to a prison term of seven years for illegal possession of firearms.

Judge Jose Godofredo Naui of the regional trial court here also ordered Camania to pay a P30,000 fine.

Camania immediately filed for reconsideration before the Court of Appeals. He lamented the verdict and insisted on his innocence.

"All I wanted was to help. In the end, I ended up as the victim," Camania told the INQUIRER.

On Feb. 20, 2001, police found two unlicensed firearms—an M-14 rifle and a .45 cal. pistol, and bullets—inside Camania's house at Barangay Lublub in Alfonso Castañeda.

Court records showed that on Feb. 4, the guns, which were owned by suspected communist rebel Teodorico Carrasco, were turned over to Camania after Carrasco was killed in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

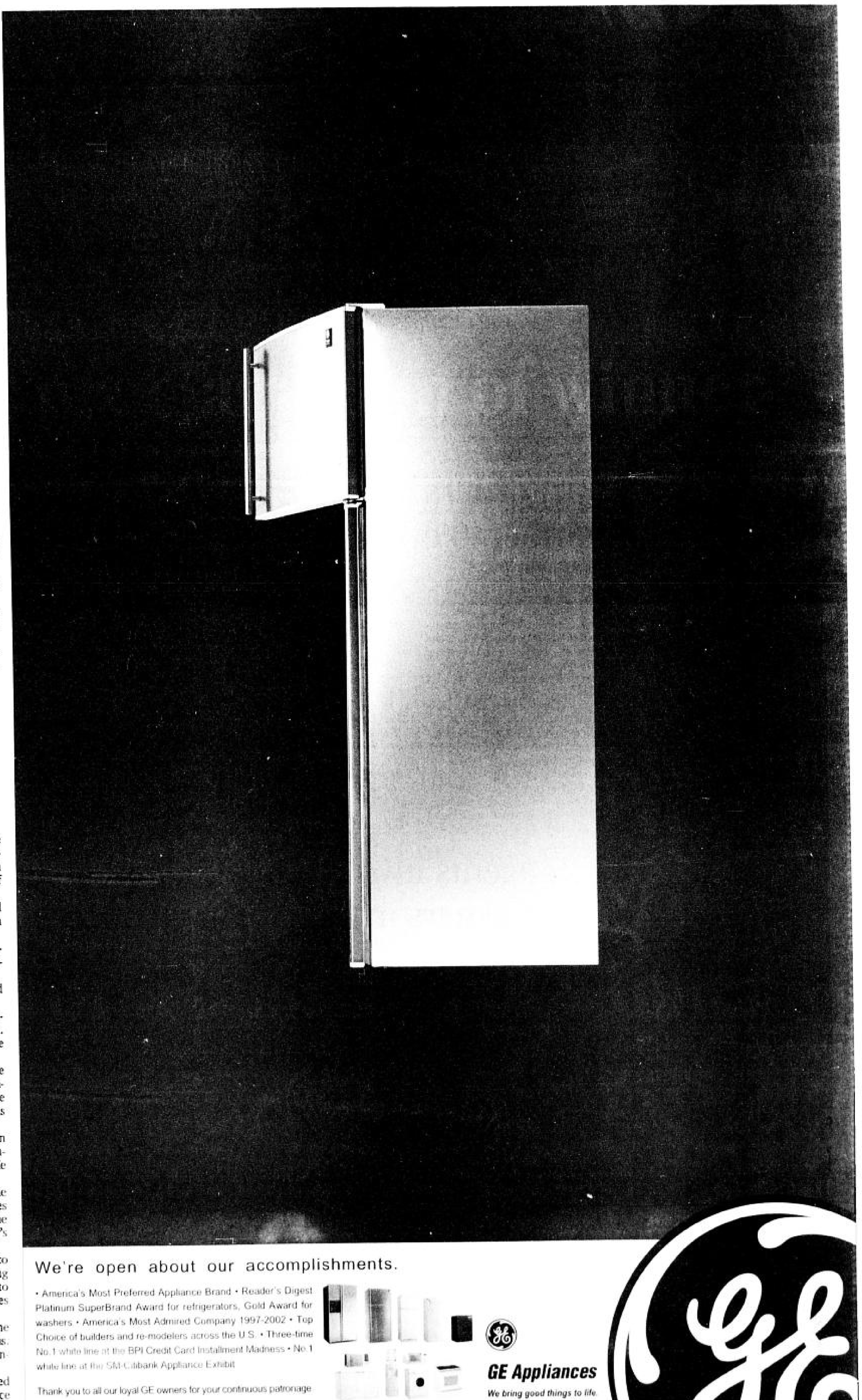
Camania said he initially hesitated, then agreed to accept the firearms as Carrasco's father, Marciano, and barangay chairperson Rosie Sanchez, were uneasy about keeping them.

Claiming good intentions, Camania said he failed to surrender the firearms to authorities in time because he "lost track of events," as he was then busy preparing his bid for last year's local elections.

"God knows I didn't have the intention to own the guns," Camania said. "Preceding events would prove that I repeatedly tried to hand them over (to police) but circumstances got in the way."

However, the court, citing a Supreme Court ruling, debunked Camania's claims. "Good faith and the absence of criminal intent are not valid defenses," the court said.

Camania, then a town councilor, assumed his post as vice mayor after the killing of Vice Mayor Cesar Lacanilao in December 2000. He ran and won for vice mayor in the May 2001 elections. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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New benefits OKd for towns with power plants

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Energy has expanded the tax benefits of towns that host state-owned power facilities, reinforcing a Cordillera government initiative to develop its own independent power producers (IPP), officials of the regional development council (RDC) here announced on Friday.

The new benefits were approved "in principle" last week but local governments are still waiting for the DOE to include the new host town provisions in the revised internal rules and regulations (IRR), said Virgilio Bautista, RDC co-chair, during a press conference.

Tax dividends

Bautista said the Cordillera has been pushing for an increase in tax dividends.

Benguet, which hosts two of the country's oldest hydroelectric power plants, earn only the mandated five-centavo share from every kilowatt power these facilities produced in the last 50 years.

The new proposal increases the tax share to 1 percent of the revenues these plants generate, Bautista said.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, RDC chair, said the DOE provision complements a Cordillera proposal to invest in community-owned small and medium-scale hydroelectric facilities along Luzon's premier waterways, in order to sell electricity to the national power grids.

No more IPPs

The community IPPs will compete with three state-run or state-facilitated hydroelectric plants, said Molintas.

"No more IPPs. For decades, the Cordillera had been the major source of power because (these government power facilities have been situated) along the waterways that flow down to Pangasinan, La Union and most of the lowlands. But in all those years, the Cordillera never benefited economically and directly from these (power plants)," he said.

Benguet hosts part of the 365-megawatt San Roque multipurpose dam project (SRMDP), the 100-MW Binga hydroelectric plant and the 75-MW Ambuklao hydroelectric plant.

The San Roque and Binga dams were listed among five legally and financially flawed contracts of the government with IPPs.

Opposition

The Benguet power facilities have been the subject of opposition from residents for almost 50 years, Molintas said.

Ambuklao, Binga and the SRMDP harness the Agno River, which flows down to major rivers in the Ilocos and Central Luzon. But around 30 percent of communities living along the Agno River have not been energized, an RDC report showed.

The RDC noted that the power plants have not generated enough economic activity to reduce poverty in their host communities.

Exploring

Molintas said private investors are exploring the Amburayan River, which flows through western Benguet, for power generation. He said communities there are also too far for conventional power distribution facilities.

"Once we become self-energized, we can look at the surplus electricity and we may market it to the (Luzon grid). This is a very viable industry, and the local governments are now allowed to generate their own power by the (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001)," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DOJ reverses smuggling charges vs Estrada pal

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The controversial case of the smuggling of 39 drums of highly-toxic chemicals from Malaysia to the city two years ago has taken several twists that saw the name of Erap Lepeng Wee excluded, then included, and again excluded in the charges filed against the suspects.

Wee was among those charged by the District Customs Collector of the Zamboanga City Port here but his name was later stricken off the list by the City Prosecutor's Office.

On April 30, the Department of Justice, through a resolution drafted by State Prosecutor Misael Ladaga and approved by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, reversed the city prosecutor's decision.

Ladaga said there was probable cause to include Wee in at least two cases of violation of the anti-smuggling law.

But on Sept. 2, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez set aside Ladaga's resolution.

Lack of evidence

Perez reasoned out that there was no sufficient evidence to sustain the indictment of Wee.

Perez said Wee's signature never appeared in the documents that covered the illegal importation, which gave credence to the contention that former President Joseph Estrada's friend had nothing to do with the shipment.

He also concurred with the findings of the Bureau of Customs that the Bills of Lading and the corresponding Statements of Account "cannot be given probative value as the same does not constitute proof of Wee's participation in the criminal act."

Perez said neither the confession of Tan Nge Foo implicating Wee in the smuggling could be given credence.

Tan was among those charged.

Wrong decision

But Ma. Lourdes Mangaoang, the district customs collector who included Wee's name in the original charge, said Perez's decision was wrong.

Mangaoang said Perez had obviously overlooked some facts of the case.

Mangaoang also said she was puzzled why Perez outrightly dismissed Tan's confession.

"Why did Secretary Perez adopt a different conclusion vis-a-vis the findings contained in the Resolution dated April 30, 2002 of this office, when the justifications cited therein are contrary to law, rules and jurisprudence? Why did he instantly dismissed the confession of Tan Nge Foo as incredible," she stated in her motion for reconsideration filed before the DOJ. *Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NICK SOLANA
LENG HERNANDEZ

MEMBERS of Bayan and Karapatan carry placards containing the names of their missing comrades during the Martial Law commemoration in Davao City last week.

BING GONZALES

Court orders arrest of Bohol board member, 6 others for election offenses

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Regional Trial Court has ordered the arrest of provincial board member Concepcion Lim and six others in connection with various election offenses allegedly committed during the 1995 elections in Valencia town, Bohol.

Aside from Lim, arrest warrants were also issued to Lim's sister Asuncion, police officers Ernesto Balakid, Diosdado Gallogo and Urbano Lampira, Rito Cagatin and Emma Palac.

In his order dated Aug. 23, Judge Dionisio Calibo Jr. of RTC Branch 50 based in Loay town, fixed the bail bond for the temporary liberty of the accused at P12,000 each.

The seven are facing charges for violation of Section 261 (1) of the Omnibus Election Code in relation to Section 33 of Republic Act No. 7166 (An Act Synchronizing National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms).

They are accused of various election offenses including vote-buying, prohibited donations, undue influence and unlawful display of police officers as campaign bodyguards.

The complaints were filed before the Commission on Elections right after the May 8, 1995 elections by Timoteo Salise and the rest of his slate that ran against the ticket of Lim who was then seeking reelection.

On Oct. 17, 2000, the Comelec's Law Department ordered the filing of the complaints with the proper court. The cases were subsequently remanded to the RTC Branch 50 in Loay.

The proceedings of the case were stalled for almost two years because the accused availed of all legal remedies, including the filing of a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec's central office.

"The court believes it has waited long enough for the promised Resolution of the Comelec of the Motion for Reconsideration of its earlier order to file the cases against the above-named accused," Calibo said in his arrest order.

The judge said that to wait longer would be "a bad precedent for further cases of the same nature."

2 NBI agents involved in kidnapping of 5 foreigners in Pagsanjan charged

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two of the 15 identified confidential agents of the National Bureau of Investigation who allegedly kidnapped five foreign nationals recently in Pagsanjan were charged with illegal arrest, carnapping and robbery extortion by the Laguna police.

The suspects who were recently arrested by pursuing authorities were identified as Larry Ferrer, 29, of Barangay Patimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, and Cesar Lacbay of Barangay Maytalang, Lumban.

The victims, who were set free by the Laguna police at Pila town, were identified as Tiger Lee and his Australian wife Chris; Bayden Majakahis, a Korean, and her Filipino husband Fred Natan; Brett Mashiam of New Zealand, their driver Antonio Villanueva and tourist guide Michelle Afable.

A report by Laguna OIC provincial director Arnulfo Espiritu to Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., newly installed Southern Tagalog police director, said the incident occurred at about 10:35 a.m., Sept. 16, at the Pagsanjan Rapids Hotel where the 15 alleged NBI confidential agents had picked up the victims.

The report said the suspects commandeered the two vehicles of the victims: an Isuzu Hi-Lander with plate no. WLB-601 and a Daihatsu van with plate no. THH-861.

The suspects also stole the victims' P300,000 cash, 10 cellphone units and two .45-caliber pistols.

The manhunt operation is still going on for the arrest of the 13 other suspects who are still in hiding, according to the police. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Farmers stopped from harvesting in Benedicto land

BACOLOD CITY—A blue guard was hurt during a scuffle on Monday after a group of farmers was stopped from harvesting sugarcane at the property owned by heirs of Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.

Security guard Dionelo Gavino was hurt in the elbow after he was hit by a female farmer who was armed with a bolo during the tussle, said Lito Estama, chair of the Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Nagasi).

Estama told the INQUIRER that at about 6 a.m. Monday, 77 Nagasi members went to the Benedicto property in Barangay Nagasi, La Carlota, about 45 kilometers south of here.

He said the farmers wanted to harvest sugarcane after they were granted permission by the Court of Appeals.

But security guards of Malibu Corp. stopped them while they were gathering the sugarcane. A scuffle then ensued.

The company, owned by Benedicto's daughter Francisca Paulino, is managing about 564 hectares of farmland in La Carlota.

Estama said no one from the Department of Agrarian Reform was around especially during the stand off between the farmers and security guards.

Farmers associated with the Malibu Corp. would not allow the Nagasi farmers to bring with them the truckload of sugarcane that they had harvested.

Joemar Alonso, Malibu Agro Corp. executive assistant, said the beneficiaries associated with the management did want the Nagasi farmers to bring out about two tons of harvested sugarcane because they had yet to see the CA order.

"If such order existed, it would still be subject to appeal," he said.

He also pointed out that the Nagasi beneficiaries had not planted nor taken care of any of the sugarcane on the land. "So why should they be entitled to it?" he asked.

If there was indeed a CA order, Alonso wondered why no DAR personnel accompanied the Nagasi farmers to help them implement it.

The Benedicto property was placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in 1996. The DAR had identified 197 beneficiaries.

Of the number, 120 farmers were the property's original workers who were associated with the Malibu Corp. The 77 farmers belonged to the Nagasi.

But the management was contesting the inclusion of 35 Nagasi members, claiming that they were not original tillers of the land.

The petition for exclusion is pending before the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

Landslide kills miner

DAVAO CITY—Another miner was killed on Saturday night when another landslide, which was caused by heavy downpour, hit the gold-rush area of Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley. Reports reaching the Southern Mindanao police office here on Thursday identified the victim as Elwin Laquitano, 31, an employee of the Blucor Group of Companies. Laquitano was allegedly working inside a tunnel, when rushing mud and water swept him away. His body was found an hour later. Laquitano was the second miner killed in a span of one week. On Sept. 10, Francisco Bugto, 36, was buried by mud during a landslide. Bugto's companions, Mariano Longakit, 36, and Jerry Lamoste, 37, were injured.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Blast suspect nabbed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police arrested the main suspect behind the Aug. 15 blast here that wounded at least two people. Muhaliden Mama Amonan was arrested after a police civilian agent spotted him inside the city public market. He was immediately brought to the General Santos City Police Office for further investigation. Witnesses identified Amonan as the man who lobbed an explosive at the sidewalk adjacent to the city public market here.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 killed in landslide

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Three people were killed after a landslide hit a river at the Biak-na-Bato national park here on Saturday. Police identified the victims as Norberto Avena, 33, a vacationing overseas Filipino worker from San Jose del Monte City, and Angelita Sto. Domingo, 23, from Sta. Maria town. Army rescuers were looking for the body of the third victim, identified only as Alex, on Tuesday. Police said the victims were walking along the riverbank at around 4 p.m. on Saturday when a landslide occurred at the Biak-na-Bato mountains. The mud and rocks fell into the river, causing the water in the river to overflow and sweep the victims.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 bodies found

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Local fishermen recovered the bodies of two suspected communist rebels in a coastal village here on Saturday. Police identified the victims as Bervin de la Cruz, of Barangay Mercado here and Bonifacio Roque of Paombong town. Their bodies were trapped in the fishermen's net dropped in the waters of this town's boundary with Pampanga. Police said De la Cruz and Roque were casualties in the reported encounter between members of the New People's Army and the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan last week in Barangay Consuelo, Macabebe, Pampanga.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Village official killed

COTABATO CITY—A village official of Pikit, Cotabato was gunned down on Thursday. Police said Sahid Macacua was inside the town's public market when a lone assailant attacked him. Police had tagged a certain Mulod Makalinding as the gunman. However, a manhunt failed to catch up with the suspect. Investigations were still being conducted to ascertain the motive behind the assassination.
Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Seaman kills 3

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A drug dependent former seaman killed his own father and two sisters at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in Barangay Sampaga, Batangas City after his family decided to return him to the rehabilitation center. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Southern Tagalog police director, identified the victims as Alfredo Jabon, 62, a farmer, and his daughters Leslie, 20, a fourth year college student, and Ivy, 12, a Grade 6 pupil. The three sustained bullet wounds in different parts of their body. They were declared dead on arrival at the Batangas Regional Hospital. Police found seven empty shells of M16 Armalite bullets, Galang said. Suspect Jay, 21, single and a former seaman was still high on drug when police arrested him. He told police that he knew he had killed someone but did not know whom he killed. Jay's mother and another sister were spared from the incident as they went out that night to fetch a doctor.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Measures for elderly

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay provincial council passed on Tuesday two resolutions giving senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) special treatment by providing special bank counter and polling centers for them. Board member Ralph Andes, committee on senior citizens chair, said majority of the senior citizens and PWDs in Albay who collect or encash their monthly pension checks in government banks, have to stand up for long while waiting for their turn to be served. The SPA also requested, in another resolution, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. to establish polling precincts exclusively for the elderly and disabled persons. He said physical disability and old age must not be an obstacle in preventing these people from exercising their right to suffrage.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ferrer, 58

DAGUPAN CITY—Former Provincial Board Member Roberto Ferrer died on Sept. 20 after a bout with diabetes. He was 58. Before his death, Ferrer was marketing director and dean of student affairs of the Lyceum of Northwestern University. He is survived by wife Alice and children Roberto Jr. and Marianne Johanna. He will be buried today at the Eternal Gardens after a 10 a.m. Mass at the St. John Cathedral here. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◆ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Changing mindsets in health delivery

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

WHAT do a bridge and a waiting shed have in common? Both are public infrastructure facilities, which a congressman or a senator can fund through his pork barrel or Countrywide Development Fund.

But in remote Cordillera villages, a bridge and a public waiting shed have a big difference. A shed can be transformed into a private pigpen, but not with a footbridge, which can spell the difference between life and death for villagers who risk their lives crossing a river when it swells during the typhoon season.

Maggie Botangen, for example, hails a footbridge recently built in her village through a joint project of the European Commission (EC) and Department of Health.

"With the bridge, we can now walk our way to the nearest clinic for medical check-up even when the river swells," Botangen, a mother from the remote village of Bangao in Buguias, Benguet, told reporters.

The beauty of it was that the bridge was the idea of community folk themselves.

The EC and the DOH, which came into the picture for the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component (WHSMP-PC), have stressed on partnership with selected poor communities. Under the scheme, the EC and the DOH are not "donors" and the community, the "recipient."

Dr. Penelope Domogo, health officer of Bontoc, Mt. Province, describes the scheme as the "liberating paradigm of the community as the expert, not the patient."

Village women, the WHSMP-PC's main partners, have indeed proved to be experts in identifying infrastructure and other facilities, which help promote their community's health and well-being. The traditional practice is that politicians identify public infrastructure projects, which don't often address the people's needs.

Elpidia Alos, another mother, cites how they identified and requested two-way radios from the WHSMP-PC to help mobilize emergency assistance in her remote village of Naguey in Atok town. Naguey has neither telephones nor mobile phone signals. To the villagers, a two-way radio is like "Rescue 911."

Development issue

The program's women partners have also identified waterworks, tire-paths (cemented paths for jeepneys and other vehicles), footpaths, toilets and adequately equipped barangay or village health stations among the projects needed by their communities.

All these simple facilities, according to them, help ensure community health. With a potable water works system, for example, mothers can regularly bathe their children, flush their toilets and maintain sanitation, which, in turn, can help prevent communicable diseases.

"Organizing communities for empowerment" used to be the development rhetoric and domain of non-government organizations and cause-oriented groups. But government agencies, including the DOH, now recognize the relevance of community organizing in their health programs.

The WHSMP-PC stresses on community organizing and health education so rural women can identify and appraise their own needs and problems, and lay down mechanisms on how to address these matters.

Doctors and nurses involved in the project have to become some sort of sociologists and anthropologists rolled into one. They have to be so because the bottom line, according to Dr. Charito Ortillo of the DOH-Cordillera, is that "health is a development issue."

Women and communities, says Ortillo, must be organized and be empowered so they can decide what kind of health care is appropriate for them and be able to know where and how to seek it.

Once organized, women and communities can not only analyze their needs and decide on solutions. They can also go beyond the DOH, and establish a wider network with local governments, other government agencies, private foundations and NGOs, says Ortillo.

Volunteers

From their own ranks, the women and communities, Ortillo adds, can organize and mobilize their traditional healers or *hilots* and a legion of community-based health volunteers.

The WHSMP-PC project covers only three villages in two selected towns in each of the four chosen Cordillera provinces. The sites are among the poorest, but there are other similarly situated communities that have yet to be "organized and empowered."

This is why the NGOs formed in the 1970s and 1980s, which stress on community organizing for community-based health care systems, has remained relevant up to now. The problem is there are only a few takers from the medical profession, primarily because of the orientation and high cost of medical education in the country.

Filipino medical doctors are trained on an American model that stresses too much on prescribing costly drugs and laboratory examinations. So they have to shift gears if they choose to enter government or a health NGO and serve in the rural areas.

A medical student's training is spent mostly in the hospital, but most of the people they will someday serve live in rural areas which do not have even the most basic facilities and drugs, such as a thermometer or an aspirin.

Seeking to recoup the high cost of medical education, many doctors resort to private practice in the urban areas and become the "pushers" of costly drugs from pharmaceutical firms, which often offer them free training and travel overseas and other perks. Others seek jobs abroad.

Citrus as a symbol of progress

By Ben Moses Ebreo
Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya

INSTEAD of their native attire, Ifugao farmers and their children wore costumes made from citrus leaves and headgear out of pomelos as they paraded in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, on Sept. 12 to open the town's Second Citrus Festival.

YOUNG Ifugao villagers show their attire made of citrus leaves and fruits to symbolize what has been a source of their dignity and prosperity during the recent citrus festival in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. BEN MOSES EBREO

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

The farmers, who are mostly migrants from Ifugao, decorated their bodies with different citrus fruits to promote Kasibu as the country's citrus capital.

The town is a potential eco-tourism attraction, according to officials, because it hosts the multi-chambered cave system in Barangay Capissaan, 5 kilometers from the site of the festival.

Villagers said the event sought to find financial and technical assistance from various sectors to hone the skills and knowledge of the Ifugao on citrus farming, which has become their main source of livelihood.

Ifugao farmers also showed their native songs and dances, depicting their adoption of citrus farming as part of their culture and tradition. Others condemned mining for destroying their land and their livelihood.

"Citrus farming, not mining, is supported by our tribe since this will improve our livelihood," said an elder.

Evelyn Dunuan, chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, lauded her fellow Ifugao for indulging in productive opportunities like citrus farming.

"We are very happy for all of you for enriching Nueva Vizcaya's culture and fortune," she said.

THE FAMOUS "orange highway" in Nueva Vizcaya where the province's famous products are sold to visitors and motorists. BEN MOSES EBREO

Also with Dunuan were Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Virgilio de los Reyes.

Farming facilities

Montemayor donated post-harvest facilities as part of the department's modernization program for farmers. He turned over a pressurized irrigation system, a refrigerated van, a machine designed to classify citrus fruits and a truck to be used by farmers in transporting their products to market."

The agriculture chief promised to work for the establishment of a fruit processing plant to help farmers wash, dry, sort and package citrus fruits.

He also gave P3.2 million to the province for projects to mitigate the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

From August to January, Ifugao farmers harvest citrus and orange varieties, such as Hamlin, Satsuma, Ponkan, Clementine, Red Chandler, Valencia, Washington navel and pomelo. These varieties abound in the Malabing Valley covering Barangays Binugawan, Tadji, Capissaan, Papaya, Wangal and Malabing.

From these villages, 824 families depend on citrus farming, managing at least 1.6 hectares of land each.

Citrus farming in the valley was promoted in the 1960s by Alfonso Namujhe, who started with 15 citrus varieties. Twelve other farmers later tried planting oranges in a four-hectare plantation in the area.

When citrus farming prospered, other Ifugao farmers adopted it as a major source of their livelihood aside from vegetable gardening.

Remembering Carlos Bulosan

By Frank Cimatu
Binalonan, Pangasinan

ON Sept. 11, the world mourned last year's terror bombings in the United States that enraged the world. But in Barangay Sto. Niño in Binalonan, Pangasinan, Escolastica Domaoal lighted a candle for her brother, writer Carlos Bulosan, who died 46 years ago in the US.

"Fewer and fewer people remember him anymore," Domaoal said in Ilocano.

Even Domaoal hardly recalls her elder brother. Bulosan never returned to the Philippines although his books—"America" by journalist Stephen Vincent Benet, "Remembrance of Things Past" by Marcel Proust, "Darkness at Noon" by Arthur Koestler, and "The Long Valley" by John Steinbeck—are still displayed in the Domaoals' living room.

One cannot miss the spot where Bulosan was born. An eight-foot marker, like a stretched pyramid, was erected in Sto. Niño.

Bulosan's markings have not faded in the pages of his books. Domaoal guards her brother's works because, she said, these are all the things she has of her brother.

The books are also a symbol of the ocean that separated Domaoal and her brothers.

Their eldest brother, a high school graduate and already a teacher, was the first to leave the village of Mangusmana in Binalonan for the US. Another brother, Dionisio, followed.

Menial jobs

Carlos, who was a promising high school student in Lingayen, arrived in Seattle, Washington, on July 1, 1930.

In the typical Ilocano role-playing, Domaoal was left to take care of their parents and their farm that shrank with every child's voyage to the US. She never learned the English language and so could not read her brother's book collection, much more the books he wrote.

When Bulosan arrived in the US, the Depression had just hit bottom and Americans were fighting for the menial jobs the Filipinos had been seeking. Many Filipino workers were expelled and some were even beaten in race riots that had erupted in California.

Bulosan first worked as a dishwasher, and in his spare moments, devoured the public libraries. In 1932, he began to write for magazines and in 1934, he became a publisher of a radical magazine known as "The New Tide."

In 1944, he came out with "Laughter of My Father." Reviews said the book was written in the comic spirit of Mark Twain and other humorists, but Bulosan said he was full of anger then.

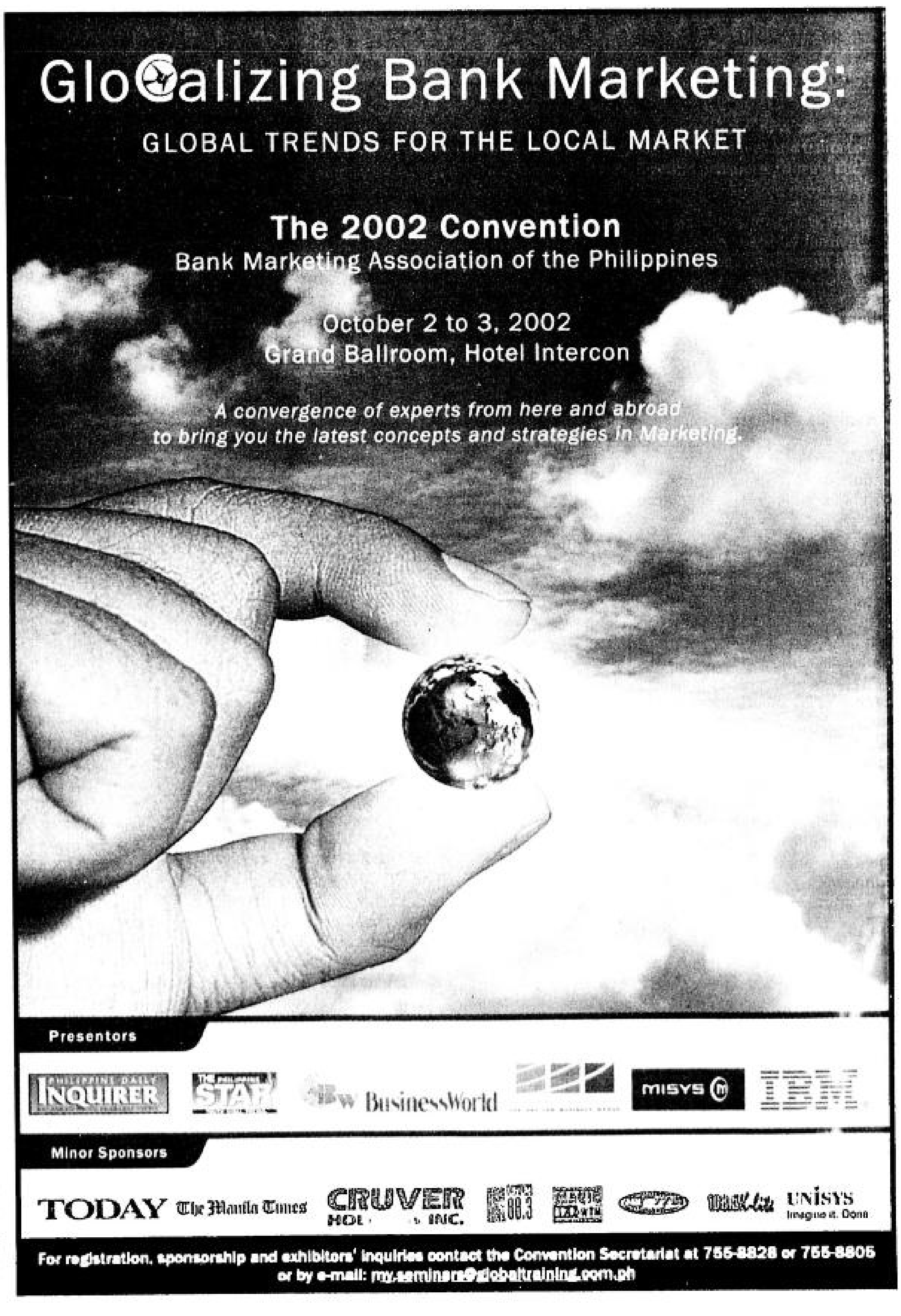
In 1946, his autobiography, "America is in the Heart," was published. It was about his life as a migrant worker in the US, enduring and patiently reacting to the fury and tribulations like a good Ilocano.

And like many Filipinos, he was full of hope. At the end of "America is in the Heart," the tuberculosis-stricken hero found hope that his hardships would end with the dawning of World War II.

After the war, Bulosan was caught in the ensuing anti-communist hysteria that blackmailed many writers. After Bulosan brought America in his heart, he found that America had ripped off his will to write.

Although still active in labor organizing, Bulosan drank heavily and on Sept. 11, 1956, he died of malnutrition and tuberculosis.

His friend, Chris Mensalvas, wrote a curt eulogy for Bulosan: "Carlos Bulosan, 38 years old, died 11 September 1956, Seattle. Birthplace: Philippines; Address: Unknown; Occupation: Writer; Hobby: Famous for his jungle salad served during foreign-born committee dinners. Estate: One typewriter, a 20-year-old suit, unfinished manuscripts, worn out socks; Finances: Zero; Beneficiary: His people."



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No smoking gun in Blair's Iraq dossier

From page A1

"Mr Blair is acting as part of the Zionist (Israeli) campaign against Iraq and all his claims are baseless," Culture Minister Hamed Yousif Hummadi told reporters.

Iraq says it has no weapons of mass destruction. After Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War, UN inspectors spent seven years in Iraq seeking out and destroying weapon stocks, but Washington and London say they did not find them all and that Iraq has acquired new ones since.

As he published the dossier, Blair urged the international community to unite to ensure Iraq disarmed.

"Our case is simply this. Not that we take military action come what may, but that the case for ensuring Iraqi disarmament is overwhelming," Blair told Parliament at the start of an emergency debate on Iraq.

Blair said he had no doubt that Iraq and its neighbors would be far better off without Saddam. He added that diplomatic channels were being pursued, but preparation for action must continue in case they failed.

Blair's 50-page document, which contained little in the way of new evidence, stopped short of saying Iraq had nuclear weapons but said it had tried to acquire uranium from Africa and was seeking the ability to enrich it to weapons grade.

Blair, whose vigorous support over Iraq for US President George W. Bush has put him out on a limb in Europe, hopes to use the dossier to win over skeptics within his own Labor Party who are reluctant to back military action against Baghdad.

Uranium from Africa

The dossier outlined Saddam's efforts to rebuild chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and develop medium-range ballistic missiles, which have been banned since the Gulf War.

On the key nuclear issue, it said Saddam's government had sought "significant quantities of uranium" from Africa, despite having no nuclear power programme that would justify it.

"Intelligence shows that the present Iraqi program is almost certainly seeking an indigenous ability to enrich uranium to the level needed for a nuclear weapons," the dossier said.

"But Iraq needs certain key equipment, including gas centrifuge components and components for the production of fissile material before a nuclear bomb could be developed."

If existing UN sanctions remained effective, Iraq would be unable to produce nuclear weapons, it said. But if it obtained fissile material and other essential components from abroad, it could produce them in between one and two years.

The dossier also said Iraq had illegally retained up to 20 al-Hussein missiles with a range of 650 km, capable of carrying chemical or biological warheads, and tried to extend the range of other, smaller missiles.

Uphill struggle

But Blair has an uphill struggle if he is to sway some hardline left-wingers determined to voice their opposition.

More than 160 members of the 659-strong Parliament, most of them from Blair's Labor Party, have in the past few months signed a motion expressing "deep unease" about Britain backing military strikes on Iraq—particularly if there is no explicit UN resolution calling for an attack.

Anti-war Labor parliamentarian George Galloway, who has travelled several times to Baghdad in recent weeks, dismissed Blair's dossier as "pulp fiction."

As protesters circled the Houses of Parliament in an open-topped campaign bus and singing "Give Peace a Chance," Galloway slammed the document as "out of date."

"The vast majority of the British people are on my side in this argument, not with the intelligence services and their pulp fiction," Galloway told reporters.

An opinion poll published on Tuesday showed British opposition to a military attack on Iraq at 39 percent.

It also showed 65 percent approval of an attack on Baghdad if there were sufficient proof that Saddam had developed new mass killing capabilities.

China's position

In a bid to mollify critics around the world, the United States and Britain are preparing a new UN resolution that would oblige Saddam to disarm and threaten military action if he did not.

This month, Iraq said it would permit the unconditional return of the arms inspectors, who left the country in 1998 and have not been allowed back in. The United States has expressed skepticism of the promise.

But only Britain fully backs Washington, with the three other permanent veto-holding members of the Security Council—Russia, China and France—unhappy about the use of force.

China said on Tuesday it would consider the proposed resolution. "We have not seen the draft of the resolution. I think if there is such a resolution draft, we would be willing to study it," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said.

Diplomats expect China to abstain on any Security Council decision allowing the use of force.

Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmed Maher, said in remarks published on Tuesday that the Iraq crisis appeared to be easing now that Baghdad had agreed to the return of arms inspectors.

"Matters appear to be heading out of a crisis and we hope that everyone cooperates to make this step an effective and useful one which realizes the aim," he told the London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper.

He was referring to a scheduled meeting between chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix and Iraqi officials to discuss the resumption of inspections.

Nevertheless, oil prices continued to rise, with war talk cited as one major factor. US benchmark crude oil futures jumped to their highest level since February 2001, up 51 cents to $31.22 a barrel. *Reuters*

Crimes Against Humanity" Iraqi National Congress.)

Among the corpses at Halabja, children were found dead where they had been playing outside their homes. In places, streets were piled with corpses.

A PHOTOGRAPH in the dossier setting out Prime Minister Blair's case for military action against Iraq claims to show the aftermath of an Iraqi chemical weapons attack against enemies of the Baghdad regime. REUTERS

ONE-TWO punch. US President Bush stands with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in this file photo taken during the British leader's visit to the US. AP

US target on Day 1: Smash Iraq's air defense system

From page A1

lating or killing President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders and damaging Saddam's elite Republican Guard units and the internal security mechanism around him. Rumsfeld said during the weekend that US military action would focus on Saddam, not Iraq's infrastructure.

Initial air strikes also would try to destroy Saddam's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons facilities and his long-range missiles.

Many experts agree that removing Saddam and getting rid of Iraq's banned weapons programs would require ground troops, who could possibly enter Iraq as soon as the bombing started.

"You're not going to be able to deal from the air with weapons of mass destruction," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told lawmakers last week. "It would take deep penetrators and would require capabilities that would have some effects that would not be nice."

Use of nukes

Rumsfeld's allusion was to nuclear weapons, which would be needed to blow up deeply buried bunkers.

Some experts say there's a strong chance Saddam would resort to using weapons of mass destruction. US forces have equipment, training and vaccinations to deal with chemical and biological weapons, but their use would slow an advancing US military force.

"It wouldn't stop the American or coalition forces from completing their mission, but it would delay and make it harder, and there would be more casualties," said former UN weapons inspector Raymond Zilinskas.

Both sides have had more than a decade to learn each other's tactics and capabilities during skirmishes in the two flight-interdiction zones over Iraq. There have been no dogfights between warplanes, but Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners have learned to "pop on" their radars at the last minute to avoid being targeted by US radar-seeking missiles or jamming aircraft. Iraq also has put anti-aircraft guns and installations in civilian areas, even at an amusement park, US officials say.

2 options

The US air campaign may try to preserve some lines of communication between Saddam's government in Baghdad and the military in the rest of the country.

One fear is that if lower-level commanders were to be cut off from Baghdad, they would use chemical or biological weapons out of desperation. On the other hand, if they are tuned in enough to know the war is going badly, they might stay out of the fight or switch sides.

After the first round of air strikes, which could last days or weeks, the United States might pause to assess whether some of Saddam's military were defecting and whether Iraqi dissidents had gained territory or provoked uprisings.

Iraq's military, mindful of its crushing defeat a decade ago when it was much stronger, could simply fold when an attack is imminent or shortly after. Tens of thousands of Iraqi troops surrendered in the Gulf War.

"It's a military that has a pattern of recognizing that it's better off not fighting for long," Rumsfeld said.

Estimates of the number of US ground forces needed vary from 50,000 to 350,000 or more. More than 500,000 coalition soldiers faced Iraq in the Gulf War.

Getting that many US troops to the region could take up to three months, experts say. Thousands already are stationed in the region, participating in the war on terror or in exercises with friendly governments. Tons of US military materiel, including tanks, armored personnel carriers and other heavy gear, already are in the Gulf area.

How to enter Iraq

US commanders have many options in getting American troops into Iraq. Most would require approval beforehand by other countries, some of which have expressed reluctance.

Soldiers could mass in Kuwait and push northward into Iraq toward Baghdad. The United States has thousands of soldiers there, as well as battle experience in southern Iraq from the Gulf War. Saddam has put many troops in the south and has violently suppressed dissent there.

US forces also could gather in southern Turkey and press south to the Iraqi capital. This would give US troops better roads and the support of anti-Saddam Kurds. But the route is mountainous and Saddam's hometown stronghold of Tikrit, which has an air base, is on the way.

American planes could drop troops virtually anywhere in Iraq, especially if Saddam's air defenses were down. Or the United States could use captured outlying Iraqi military bases as staging areas.

A push to Baghdad from the west is considered unlikely, given Saudi Arabia's reluctance to be involved. Iraq's eastern border is with Iran, which basically precludes a drive from that direction.

Baghdad could be key to the battle.

"The center of gravity is not the wholesale defeat of the Iraqi military, but rather convincing everyone that Saddam Hussein is not going to be president in a couple of days," said military analyst John Pike of the consulting firm GlobalSecurity.org. "In order to do that, I think you can bypass the Iraqi military and go straight to Baghdad."

Urban fighting, however, is deadly, and many US advantages in technology and communications are useless in the closed-in spaces and artificial canyons of a city.

The prospect of a Battle of Baghdad with hard-core Saddam loyalists fighting to the last is looming as the "nightmare scenario" for a war in Iraq, according to military experts.

While many reports have spoken of an operation with air strikes and lightning commando raids to isolate Saddam's regime, the worst case was raised Monday by Joseph Hoar, former commander in chief of the US Central Command (Centcom).

Hoar told the Senate armed services committee that "the nightmare scenario" involved six Iraqi Republican Guard divisions and six heavy divisions reinforced with several thousand anti-aircraft artillery pieces defending Baghdad.

"The result would be high casualties on both sides, as well as in the civilian community," Hoar said.

The retired general said the US government had to make sure it would have enough forces ready to take on the Iraqi military.

Warning

During the hearing, Hoar also warned against excess confidence in Washington.

"There are people in this city who believe that a military campaign against Iraq will not be difficult because of the enormous advances of technology and the willingness of some groups in Iraq to revolt once a campaign has begun," he told senators.

"I am not certain that a campaign of this nature will take that course. I certainly hope so. One thing I am certain is that there is a nightmare scenario." *Reports from AP and AFP*

Jimenez allies say 8 SC justices risk impeachment

By Juliet L. Javellana and Christine Avendaño

ALLIES of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in the House of Representatives said the eight Supreme Court justices who ruled against Jimenez risked impeachment.

"If there is culpable violation of the Constitution that will warrant impeachment, I'm sure a lot of our colleagues will file an impeachment complaint," Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said.

Pichay and Representatives Rolex Suplico and Willie Villarama filed House Resolutions 762 and 763 opposing Jimenez's extradition, saying it is only the House which can expel its member. They said the decision could create a constitutional crisis. The two resolutions were signed by 70 congressmen so far.

Separation of powers

"The Supreme Court has just violated the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution," Suplico said in a phone interview.

He said the high court also deprived the constituents of the sixth district of Manila representation in Congress.

"I would advise Congressman Jimenez to file a motion for reconsideration to give the Supreme Court a chance to correct its mistake," Suplico said.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said she was inclined to sign a House resolution opposing the extradition of Jimenez to the United States. Rosales said she had not yet seen the resolution, reportedly in circulation for signatures for a year now, but would sign it because she agreed with her colleagues that the laws of the House should be respected.

"I am inclined not to support the extradition because if his extradition equals to expulsion then this is tantamount to usurping the authority of the House to discipline its members," Rosales said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the two strongly worded House resolutions opposing Jimenez's extradition should not be interpreted as an encroachment into the powers and functions of the judiciary. "Being a congressman myself, I know how a congressman feels, and I know the friendship that goes among members of Congress," Perez told reporters.

"But this would not, in any way, affect the independence of the judiciary. The judiciary will react in accordance with the merits of the case, and not because of a resolution filed by members of Congress," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo*

The case vs Jimenez

1998

May 10—Mark Jimenez and family return to the Philippines from the United States.

September- Mark Jimenez is charged in a 17-count indictment in a US District Court in Washington DC for making illegal contributions to the campaigns of President Clinton and other Democrats

1999

April 16—Mark Jimenez is indicted by the US justice department on 47 counts (inclusive of the 17 last September), that included making and concealing illegal contributions to Democrats' campaigns, conspiracy, mail fraud, tax evasion and false statements.

April 24—During his weekly program, 'Jeep ni Erap,' President Joseph Estrada calls Jimenez a corporate genius when he divulges that Jimenez is an unofficial, unsalaried "presidential adviser on Latin American affairs."

June 17—US Embassy asks the Philippine government to arrest and extradite Jimenez on charges of tax evasion, wire fraud, conspiracy, giving false statements and campaign financing charges.

July 29—Jimenez resigns as presidential adviser.

Aug 10—Judge Ralph Lantion of Manila RTC Branch 25 issues a temporary restraining order preventing DOJ Sec. Cuevas, DFA Sec. Siazon and NBI Director Opinion from conducting further proceedings on the extradition request of the US.

Aug 17—SC nullifies TRO issued by Judge Lantion who is ordered to give an explanation why he issued the TRO.

Aug 18—US State Department submits new documents to bolster extradition.

Nov 6—FBI Director Louis Freeh presses the President on the extradition of Jimenez.

2000

Jan 18—SC rules in favor of Jimenez and orders prosecutors to give him copies of the US request for his extradition and the evidences of crimes allegedly committed.

Feb 4—DOJ files for an urgent motion for reconsideration to the SC ruling.

Oct. 17—The SC in a 17-page resolution reversed its Jan. 18 ruling on the issue. The SC voted 9-6 to reverse its earlier decision and declared that Jimenez could not examine the documents filed by the US in the extradition case against him. The DOJ then said that it would start the extradition proceedings against Jimenez.

Oct. 18—The US Embassy says the Philippine government should proceed with the extradition case as soon as possible.

Oct. 28—INQUIRER reports that Washington has asked the DOJ to issue a hold departure order against Mark Jimenez pending his extradition to the US. The request was coursed through the DFA, says US Embassy spokesperson Thomas Skipper. The DOJ has not issued such an order.

2001

Jan. 17—Jimenez asks the SC for more time to comment on a motion by the justice department in connection with the extradition proceedings against him.

Feb. 2—Jimenez goes to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's residence in Mandaluyong City and says he is willing to testify against Estrada.

Feb. 7 - SC junks the motion for reconsideration previously filed by Jimenez.

March—Jimenez executes two affidavits revealing that he issued 10 checks to Estrada totaling P346 million, including a P126-million advance commission for the Equitable-PCI Bank merger that was brokered by Jimenez. In his affidavit he also gives details on bank deposits he allegedly made to several of Estrada's accounts, including the notorious "Jose Velarde" account, which supposedly held billions of pesos in questionable funds. Jimenez claims in his affidavit that Estrada had "extorted" P346 million from him from December 1998 to August 2000.

May 14—Voters in Manila's 6th district elect Jimenez as their representative to Congress.

July 4—Judge Guillermo Purganan of the Manila RTC Branch 42 denies the DOJ's petition to have Jimenez detained without bail for the duration of the extradition hearings.

July 11 - The DOJ files a petition on behalf of the US government with the Supreme Court seeking the cancellation of his P1-milion bail bond and the nullification of a Manila judge's order granting him temporary liberty.

Aug. 15—American embassy charge d' affaires Michael Malinowski says in a luncheon remarks to the Philippine Bar Association that the US wants Mark Jimenez extradited.

2002

March 18—US FBI Director Robert Mueller says the US wants a swift extradition of Jimenez.

March 20 - Ombudsman Desierto says that the only way for Rep. Mark Jimenez to delay his extradition to the US would be to testify against Estrada.

Compiled by Michael Cucio & Ray Leyesa from PDI news reports

SC orders arrest of Mark Jimenez

From page A1

(who wrote the decision), Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Vicente Mendoza, Antonio Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Renato Corona, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Rome J. Callejo Sr.

Those who dissented were Associate Justices Jose Vitug, Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. Associate Justices Reynato Puno, Josue Bellosillo and Leonardo Quisumbing voted to remand the case to the Manila RTC.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez hailed the decision as the "triumph of justice." The Department of Justice had elevated the case to the high court after Manila RTC Branch 42 Presiding Judge Guillermo Purganan issued an order on July 3, 2001 allowing Jimenez to post bail.

Jimenez was Estrada's adviser on Latin American affairs when the United States requested his extradition in June 1999. However, through his contacts with Estrada and legal maneuverings, Jimenez managed to delay extradition for years, even after Estrada was toppled in a popular uprising in January 2001 amid a massive corruption scandal.

Asked if the police could arrest Jimenez anytime, Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan said: "It's up to the Philippine National Police. But I really don't know. I'm not sure (if they can arrest him within the 15-day period)."

Jimenez said he could not be arrested just yet. "It is not executory," he said when he visited the INQUIRER news desk last night. He said he would file a motion for reconsideration. Mario Bautista, lawyer of Jimenez, said the high court's decision was not yet final as his client still had 15 days from official receipt of a copy of the decision to file a motion for reconsideration.

"Only after the Supreme Court receives and acts on our motion for reconsideration, and its decision becomes final and executory, can the issue of Congressman Jimenez's right to bail be resolved," Bautista said in a statement.

Church visit

Jimenez went to church as soon as he heard news about the Supreme Court's decision. "I'm saddened not just for myself but for my family and my country because I think the basic right of a person to post bail has been violated," he said.

"If we cannot even defend the Filipino in his own country, how can we defend the Filipinos in other countries?"

The United States had asked the Department of Justice to extradite Jimenez because he had been charged with two counts of conspiracy to defraud the US government, four counts of tax evasion, two counts of wire fraud, six counts of false statements and 33 counts of illegal campaign contribution to the Democratic Party. The charges, allegedly committed between September 1994 to March 1998, were filed with the US District Court for South Florida.

In ruling against Jimenez, the Supreme Court nullified Purganan's July 3, 2001 order and the May 23, 2001 order, which set for hearing on June 5 of the same year the DOJ's application for the issuance of warrant of arrest against Jimenez.

The tribunal then directed the Manila RTC to conduct extradition proceedings with "all deliberate speed pursuant to the spirit and the letter of our extradition treaty with the US as well as our Extradition Law."

The Supreme Court said courts should "not allow contortions, delays and 'over-due process' every little step of the way, lest these summary extradition proceedings become not only inutile but also sources of international embarrassment due to out inability to comply in good faith with a treaty partner's simple request to return a fugitive."

Due process

"Contrary to his contention, his detention prior to the conclusion of the extradition proceedings does not amount to a violation of his right to due process. We reiterate the familiar doctrine that the essence of due process is the opportunity to be heard but, at the same time, point out that the doctrine does not always call for a prior opportunity to be heard," the Supreme Court said.

It noted that in extradition cases, "bail is not a matter of right; it is subject to judicial discretion in the context of the peculiar facts of each case."

The Supreme Court pointed out that potential extraditees were entitled to the right to due process and to fundamental fairness.

But due process, it said, "does not always call for a prior opportunity to be heard" because "a subsequent opportunity is sufficient due to the flight risk involved."

"Indeed, available during the hearings on the petition and the answer is the full chance to be heard and to enjoy not to be converted into a dubious haven where fugitives and escapees can unreasonably delay, mummify, mock, frustrate, checkmate and defeat the quest for bilateral justice and international cooperation," it said.

But Bautista said Jimenez was not a flight risk. "Congressman Jimenez has freely placed himself under the jurisdiction of the courts, to the extent of surrendering his passport to the Manila RTC. He has been faithfully discharging his duties as representative of the sixth district of Manila, and been appearing in Court when needed. There is no basis for concern that he will flee the country," Bautista said.

The high court ruled that Purganan gravely abused his discretion in issuing the orders because there was nothing in the Extradition Law or even in the Constitution requiring a notice or a hearing before the issuance of an arrest warrant against an individual charged with other than a criminal offense.

"The constitutional right to bail is available only in criminal proceedings," said the Supreme Court, adding that even Section 2 of Article III of the Constitution invoked by Jimenez "does not require a notice or a hearing before issuance of a warrant of arrest."

The high court explained that under the Extradition Law, the arrest of an individual subject to extradition proceedings should be immediate upon finding of probable cause against him. "An arrest subsequent to a hearing can no longer be considered immediate," it said.

Thus, the tribunal set aside Purganan's orders as they would set bad precedents. "Validating the act of respondent judge and instituting the practice of hearing the accused and his witness at this early stage would be discordant with the rational for the entire system," it said.

The high court also recognized that extradition was essentially an executive, not a judicial, responsibility arising out of the presidential power to conduct foreign relations and to implement treaties.

"Thus, the executive department of government has broad discretion in its duty and power and implementation. On the other hand, courts merely perform oversight functions and exercise review authority to prevent or excise grave abuse and tyranny," it said. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and AFP*

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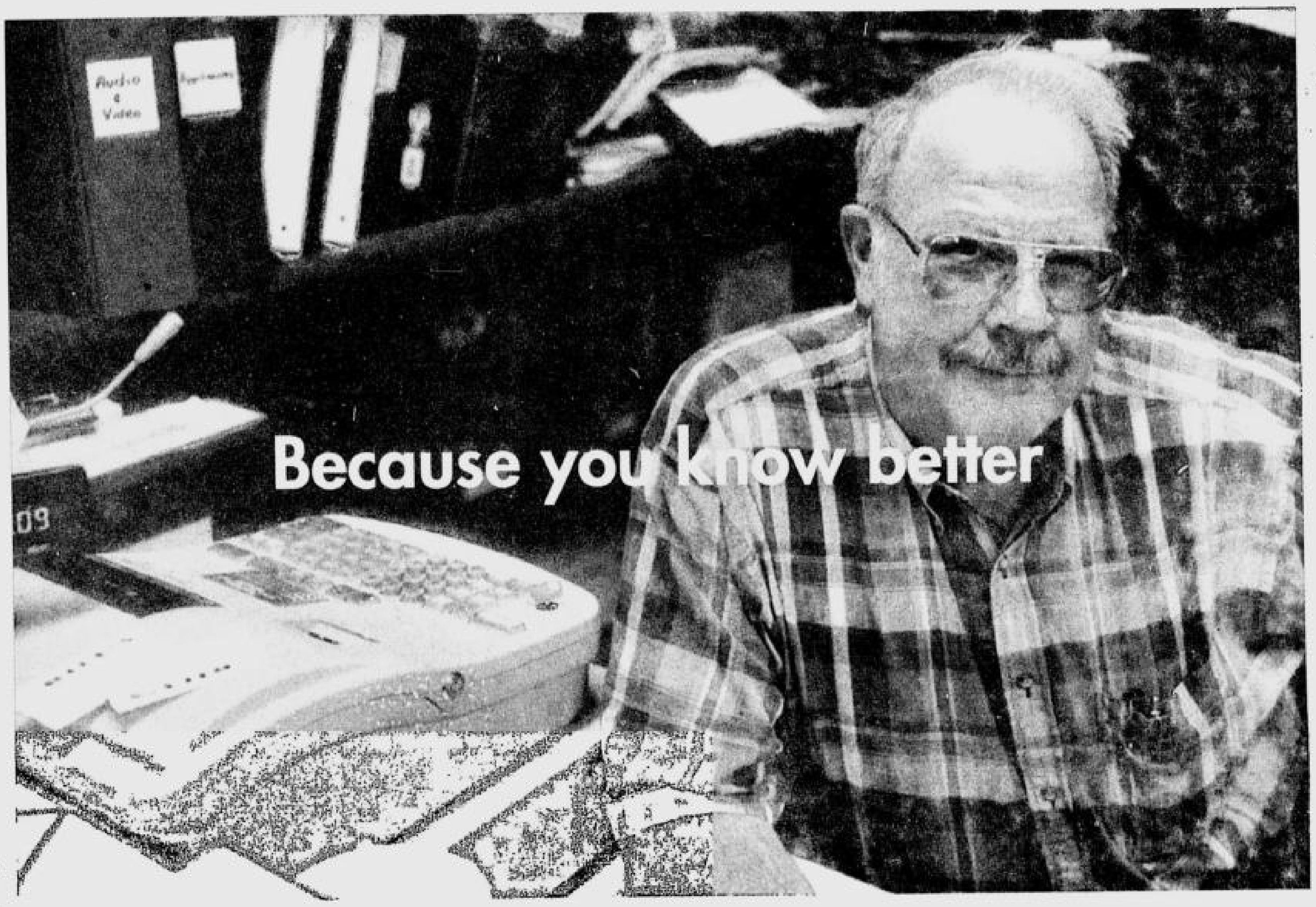

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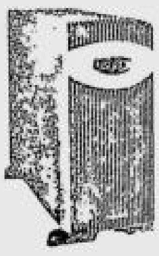

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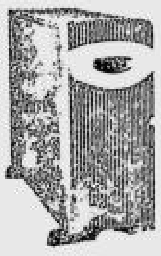

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Copa clears Mike of any involvement in P1.1-B road mess

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN A move to mend fences with President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) yesterday cleared First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of any involvement in the alleged overpricing of the P1.1-billion President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

"Our initial perusal of the documents showed no links between the First Gentleman and the road fiasco...None at all," Pastor "Boy" Saycon, Copa secretary general, told the INQUIRER.

Saycon said Public Estates Authority (PEA) Chair Ernest Villareal should just tell the public the people who received the alleged P600-million overprice.

"Malacañang and the First Couple have nothing to do with this," he said. "It's between (PEA director Sulficio) Tagud and other PEA officials."

The First Gentleman was dragged into the controversy because of his links with Villareal, said to be an incorporator of the Bigkis Pinoy Foundation which is identified with Arroyo. The First Gentleman had denied having any involvement in the foundation.

The road scandal was further complicated when Villareal disclosed that Tagud's exposé was part of a destabilization plot against the administration. Villareal on Monday promised to submit to the President yesterday a "confidential report" on the alleged plot involving a retired military officer and a lawmaker.

Saycon yesterday challenged Villareal to "name in public" the two officials supposedly plotting to destabilize the government.

Copa dismissed the supposed plot as a "fantasy creation" of Villareal to muddle the issue which "directly involves" him.

"What do we do with people like Villareal?" Saycon asked. "We just smile, shake our head and say 'this guy must be nuts.'"

Copa, a key player in the movement that ousted Joseph Estrada, is wary of getting dragged into yet another destabilization controversy. No less than the President had called Saycon a "termite" for consistency criticizing her administration.

Ms Macapagal had earlier junked the civil society group after some of its members supported the "Freedom Force concept" floated by journalist Teodoro Benigno early this year allegedly to prevent forces from the Left and the Right from seizing power.

PEA wants to pay builder ₱402M more

From page A1

augurated on her birthday in April.

Tagud said several cost adjustments were approved on Aug. 13 after he was outvoted 6-1. He said he also was outvoted in several occasions, including the meeting on April 19, when the board approved a P42-million cost adjustment.

He said it was PEA Director Rodolfo Tuason, a former congressman, who forced the board to vote for the approval of the cost adjustments. "I have to come out because I was outvoted on two occasions. They will continue to railroad the project," he said.

Go on leave

Tagud is calling on PEA officials, including PEA Chair Ernest Villareal, Cariño, Beriña, Assistant General Manager Teron Lacson, and engineers Jaime Millan and Bernie Viray, to go on leave to prevent them from tampering with the records of the project. "They should go on leave and not use the resources of PEA to defend themselves," he said.

Villareal said members of the board saw no need for them to go on leave. "We serve at the pleasure of the President. If she instructs us to go on leave, we will. But personally, I don't see any reason for us to go on leave because we did nothing wrong," he said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it might be premature for members of the PEA board to go on leave. Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo had no reaction yet to a letter submitted by Tagud asking her permission for him to go on leave.

In his letter, Tagud told the President that he was heeding calls by members of the Senate for PEA officials to go on leave while the project was being investigated.

"We're still waiting for an explanation (from the PEA)," Bunye said at his regular media briefing. On Thursday, Ms Macapagal ordered the PEA and the Government Service Insurance System, which provided the PEA with a P1-billion loan for the construction of the road, to submit their written explanations within 72 hours. Before tapping the GSIS, the PEA obtained a P300-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines for the road project.

Villareal was supposed to submit yesterday his explanation on the alleged P600-million overprice of the road as well as his claim that the exposé on the alleged scam was part of a destabilization campaign against the administration.

Bunye said that the "PEA is still trying to finalize their explanation" and that any decision to ask members of the PEA board to go on leave "depends on how they explain their side."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan called for an independent investigation of the alleged overpricing of the PDMB, saying the PEA and the President have much to explain for the most expensive asphalt road project in the country.

Teodoro A. Casiño, Bayan secretary general, said the House of Representatives and the Senate should undertake their own investigation.

"But in order to ferret out the truth and prevent Malacañang from influencing an internal probe, an independent body should handle the job," Casiño said. The PEA is under the Office of the President.

"Who is behind J.D. Legaspi Construction? Who are the people who may have pocketed millions from this outrageous scam? Is this part of preparations for the 2004 presidential elections?" Casiño asked.

WORKERS plant full-grown African palm trees on the center island of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. The landscaping of the controversial project reportedly cost P14 million.

BOY CABRIDO

Pin down the culprits

The Bayan leader also urged Plunder Watch, Catholic bishops, youth organizations and anti-corruption groups to help in pinning down "the culprits."

Casiño said the P600-million overprice was enough to provide a P3,000-increase for 200,000 government employees for a month. The overprice is also the equivalent to a day's earnings of 2.4 million minimum wage workers.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya lashed out at top PEA officials for defending the road project against critics of the administration. The top three officials of the PEA the other day defended the controversial asphalt road project named Ms Macapagal's late father-President, saying the project may have been very expensive but not overpriced.

"Politically speaking, this project was undertaken for the purpose of fat kickbacks. The project was overpriced to meet the principal objective of corruption," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said the three PEA officials acted like the "Fabulous Baker Boys" in defending Malacañang.

"Villareal and the rest of the PEA gang politically, literally and figuratively held a super road show presentation by enjoying a brisk walk along the Macapagal Boulevard in a desperate attempt to save the faces of those who were named principals and accomplices behind the road scam," Corpuz said of the road tour conducted by the PEA for the media.

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tor Al S. Mendoza ● *Associate Editor* Edwin M. Villanueva

Singapore battling tall odds

SINGAPORE—Tiny Singapore is not expecting any more than a couple of golds at the coming Asian games because of stiff competition from its larger regional rivals. "All the big giants will be there," said Chris Chan, secretary general of the Singapore National Olympic Council. *AP*

ASIAN GAMES

RP flag raised today at Athletes' Village

BUSAN—The Philippine flag will be raised today at the Flag Plaza as the country's presence in the Asian Games' Athletes' Village here becomes official.

Chef de Mission Tomas Carrasco will lead more than 30 of the 47 athletes and officials who arrived here last Sunday during the flag-raising ceremony at 10 a.m. (9 a.m. in Manila).

The Filipinos, who will wear their parade uniforms for the opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games on Sunday, will be welcomed by Village Mayor Wang Sang-eun after the RP flag is raised and the national anthem sung.

After Carrasco gives a short reply, there will be an exchange of souvenir gifts between Mayor Wang and the Filipino delegation chief.

Carrasco has named Fil-Am boxer Christopher Camat to turn over the Philippine flag to the Organizing Committee flag-hoister.

"This is an important occasion because this gives us the opportunity to show our hosts that we are not only here to win medals but also to give true meaning to our two countries' close ties," said Carrasco.

The rest of the 327-man RP delegation will arrive here between now and Oct. 6. The all-pro basketball team, which plays its first game against United Arab Emirates on Saturday, is flying in today.

The biggest bulk of the delegation numbering 115 is due here tomorrow. The group includes athletes from swimming, equestrian, fencing, golf, gymnastics, judo, sepak takraw, shooting, softball and weightlifting.

Another group of 76 athletes and officials will arrive on Saturday. Among those in the group are world champions Efren Reyes, Francisco Bustamante and Paeng Nepomuceno and other athletes from billiards, bowling, bodybuilding , gymnastics, shooting, soft tennis, squash, table tennis and wrestling.

Two members of the equestrian team–Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski and Michael Barrera–checked in at the Athletes' Village Monday.

"We've been training here since Sept. 18," said Ms Jaworski, who has maintained her, movie-star looks and found time to compete despite being a mother of two lovely kids.

The Filipinos are slowly adjusting to local conditions, including the cold weather at night. But they're finding it difficult getting a ride to training venues.

Carrasco has instructed his staff, led by Nestor Ilagan and Boying Santos-Viola, to make necessary arrangements with the local NOC service people.

Filipino sailing bets ooze with confidence

BUSAN—Fifteen-year-old Jayson Villena and 13-year-old Lealyn Taroja may be among the youngest members of Team Philippines but they both vowed to deliver man-size performance in sailing once the Asian Games starts here on Sunday.

They will compete in the optimist racing which is limited to boys and girls 15 years old and below. Participants compete over a one-mile course for four straight days, then rest for one day before racing again for the next two days.

Villena and Taroja hardly show any fear and even ooze with confidence as they talk of their coming stints.

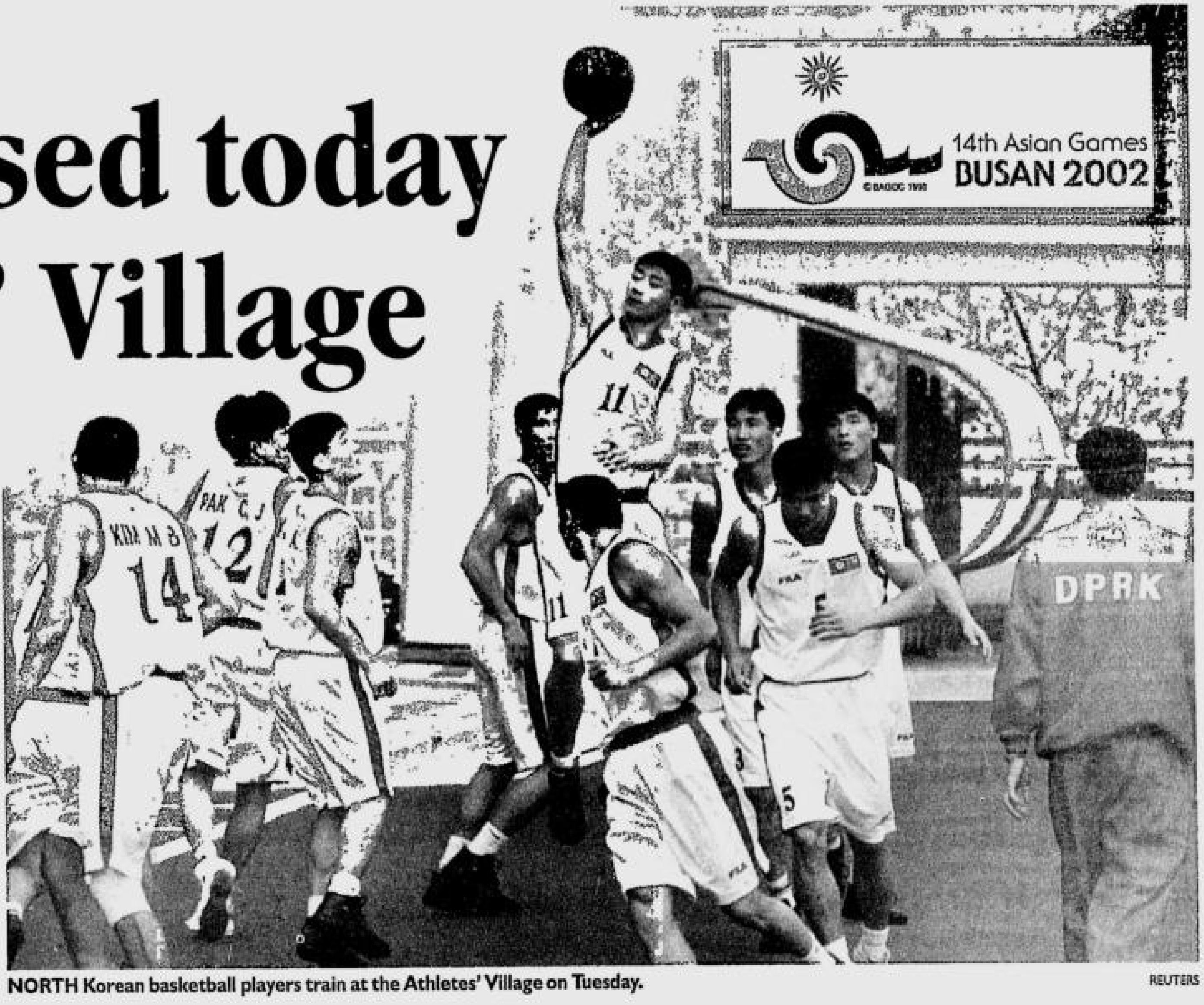
"The stronger the wind blows, the bigger chance I have of winning the gold," said the 5-foot-2 Villena, a chemical engineering freshman at National University. "I'm not afraid of the opponents although I know that they are tough especially the Singaporeans."

Though this is only Villena's second international campaign, he said that he's confident he can succeed.

"It's how you handle the board," said Villena, referring to the way one steers the 3-meter fiberglass board outfitted with a sail and a rudder in the week-long competition which can sometimes last up to seven hours a day depending on how the wind blows.

Taroja, a daughter of a former sailor who celebrated her birthday here Monday, sounded just as confident as Villena.

"I'm not scared because I practice very hard," said Taroja, who is competing on her first foreign outing. She is a high school freshman at Dasmariñas, Cavite's Blessed Mary Academy and trains every weekend at Manila Bay near the Manila Yacht Club basin.



NORTH Korean basketball players train at the Athletes' Village on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Daughter inspires Django

'I will do my best to win a gold on the first attempt'

BUSTAMANTE: 8-balls singles and doubles contender.

FILE PHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WIN the gold for daughter Mariel.

That overriding motive will be in the heart and mind of billiards star Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the flag-bearer of Team Philippines in the Busan Asian Games which begins on Sunday.

"I will do my best to win a gold on the first attempt," said Bustamante. "I hope to bring honor to our countrymen."

Bustamante, a former world 9-ball champion and the other half of the country's "Dream Team" (the other being Efren "Bata" Reyes), said he has maintained his focus now that he has come to terms with the death of his 8-month-old daughter Mariel last July.

In fact, Bustamante has already competed in several tournaments here and abroad since that sad experience, including the recent Subic Challenge of the Masters where he lost to Reyes in the final.

Bustamante impressed sports fans when he decided to push through with his campaign in the World Pool Championships in Cardiff in July even when Mariel died of an illness back home in the Philippines midway through the tournament.

Though team officials gave the 38-year-old a free-hand to take the first flight back home, Bustamante insisted on staying and taking a crack at the title instead.

But despite being the sentimental favorite in the tournament he won four years ago, Bustamante gave in to grief and was eventually defeated by American Earl Strickland for the championship.

"It was very difficult to play," said Bustamante, who made an international breakout in the early '90s when he won the German 9-ball championships shortly after his stint as a teaching pro in Europe. "I felt as if I was floating on air. But later, I concentrated as I never had before."

Bustamante, a soft-spoken native of Tarlac, is known for his explosive breaks on the pool. He will play in the 8-ball singles and doubles event.

"When they broke the news to me, they assured me that I could do whatever I wanted. But it is over and there is nothing more I could do at home. I decided to stay on and play for my country," Bustamante added.

That toughness could very well be what the Philippines needs in Busan. *With a report from AFP*

Seigle's folly

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

EVEN if the criminal charges are dropped, PBA player Andy Seigle, also a member of the Philippine team to the Busan Asian Games, should be sanctioned by the Philippine Basketball Association, his coach in the national squad or even his own team (Purefoods) for figuring in a brawl inside a club in Makati in the early morning of last Sept. 8. As a result of the bar fight, the 6-foot-9 Seigle and his companions now face multiple charges based on the complaint of three club bouncers who claimed they were beaten up.

Not only that. The incident showed that Seigle lacked personal discipline because, aside from allegedly reeking of liquor, he was also staying out late at night, breaking the normal curfew hour for national athletes, who are supposed to sleep early and stay fit while in training. Surely, this isn't the ideal trait of one who is regarded as a role model by most Filipinos, especially the youth.

Thus the people concerned, particularly PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, should investigate the incident and punish the guilty party. After all, he has the authority to fine or suspend a player based on a standard conduct clause in a player's contract.

The bouncers claimed Seigle and his group, allegedly under the influence of liquor, reportedly annoyed female customers on the dance floor of the club, prompting them to intervene. Angered, Seigle allegedly engaged them in a heated argument, triggering the brawl which led to their mauling. However, club officials immediately cleared Seigle, reportedly a regular customer of the club, saying the player had nothing to do with the fight as he was merely pacifying his friends. But the three bouncers, who had since been fired by the club owner, said Seigle was directly involved in the mauling incident.

Who is telling the truth? Who is lying? Will Seigle get off the hook? *Abangan.*

***

WELL DONE. Efren "Bata" Reyes proved once more that he is world-class by winning the just-ended Cafe Puro Challenge of the Masters which featured top billiards players Mika Immonen of Finland, Corey Deuel of the United States and Puyat Sports teammate Francisco "Django" Bustamante, whom he defeated in the finals Saturday night, 5-2, 5-3, at the Subic Yacht Club. It was a well-deserved triumph for Reyes, who won $10,000 in the process. Congratulations! . . . Also worth of a pat on the back is much admired horse owner Hermie Esguerra, whose horses are always out to win. Most recently, his coupled entries, High Octane and Reigns Supreme, finished 1-2 in the Explosive Stakes race held at the Santa Ana Park. "This victory is for all the racing fans out there," said the successful businessman from Bulacan.

SPORTS TRIVIA. It has been said that "dancing is older than anything except eating, drinking and making love." In the days when speech had hardly been born, primitive people expressed their emotions by movement, dancing a kind of mime to act out their deepest wishes and desires. The first beginnings of modern ballroom dancing originated in 1812 in England with the introduction of waltz. The new dance met strong opposition from many sectors because it scandalized society. "Never before," the cynics said, "had a man clasped the lady to him in a facing position in what was almost an embrace." But the protest died down when Russian Emperor Álexander was seen waltzing at Almack's, the high-class exclusive assembly rooms for dignitaries of the time. Waltz, with its gliding movements, brought new joy and meaning to social dance and, subsequently, took Europe by storm.

Slow tickets sales worry organizers

BUSAN, South Korea—Asian Games organizers were scrambling Tuesday to kick-start ticket sales with 90 percent unsold just days before the opening ceremony.

Organizers have been forced to seek help from government officials, schools, news media and social organizations in a publicity campaign aimed at boosting public consciousness about Asia's biggest sporting carnival.

"We are suffering from a post-World Cup syndrome. Koreans, who have already been to the feast of the World Cup, do not care much for the Asian Games," said Um Doo-Wan, director of the ticket sales department of the organizing committee.

"Geographic distances between Seoul and Busan and between downtown Busan and Asiad venues also thwart many people to come to the Games," Um told AFP.

An average 11 percent of a total of 2.7 million tickets have so far been sold, with large chunks of the sales for the football finals and opening ceremony.

Some 80 percent of tickets for the opening ceremony have been booked or sold while the football final and semifi [illegible]

Tickets for football matches involving South Korea, China and Japan have also been popular.

However, sales for less popular events are sagging. Some events have sold just one or two percent of tickets on offer. Ninety percent of tickets for the closing ceremony are still up for grabs. *AFP*

ASIAD CAGEFEST

Pinoy 5 still top contender—Jun B

By Dennis U. Eroa

FORGET about it. Time to look ahead.

Outgoing PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino yesterday said the all-pro national team to the Asiad remains a major contender for the gold even in the absence of the injured Danny Seigle.

Seigle tore his achilles tendon during the exhibition game against Qatar last Sunday but Bernardino, the perpetual optimist, said he remains confident on the ability of the nationals to upstage the Busan favorites headed by powerhouse China.

"Danny's a great loss. But things happen for a reason. The incident can become our rallying point," Bernardino said during the PSA Forum yesterday at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Bernardino added that upsets have been happening in the basketball world lately. And Bernardino is hopeful that the trend may continue in Busan.

"This is the year of the upsets," said Bernardino. He mentioned the shocking loss of powerhouse US in the last World Basketball Championships in Indianapolis, Ateneo denying four-time defending champion La Salle a 14-game sweep of UAAP men's basketball eliminations and in a way, Talk N Text forcing a heavily favored Red Bull side to seven gruelling games in the recent Commissioner's Cup finals.

BERNARDINO (right) with PSC Chair Eric Buhain during yesterday's PSA Forum.

BETOY JOHNSON

"These developments augur well for the country's campaign to end a 40-year drought for the basketball gold," said Bernardino.

A Filipino team backstopped by Caloy Loyzaga and a young Rhoel Nadurata won the gold back in 1962.

Bernardino, also the basketball team's manager, believes China, despite the presence of National Basketball Association (NBA) players Menk Bateer and top rookie pick Yao Ming, can be beaten, signs of which were obvious enough with the way the Chinese played in the World Basketball Championships.

"Hope springs eternal. They (Chinese) are beatable. Every team, in fact, is beatable in this (Asian) Games," added Bernardino in the same forum sponsored by Agfa, Red Bull and Pioneer Insurance.

Meanwhile, Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the country is fielding a better prepared team in the Busan games.

Dayrit predicted Filipino athletes winning a low of five and a high of 10 golds.

"The RP team is prepared. It is better prepared than in the past so we expected to perform better. Our athletes can win a minimum of five golds and if we're lucky enough it could go as high as 10," Dayrit told the Forum.

Dayrit said bowling, billiards, boxing, golf, wushu, taekwondo and rowing can produce golds.

I gave the best for my school, says UE's Artadi

By Dennis U. Eroa

ARTADI

NO, sir. Paul Artadi, UE's most admired and most hated point-guard nowadays, isn't going to hang himself after committing the mother of all blunders during the Ateneo-UE knockout game last Sunday at the Big Dome.

"It was a very emotional experience for me. But it will only toughen my resolve to become a basketball star," Artadi told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview last night.

Artadi saw what could have been a triumphant season for the Warriors evaporate into thin air when he made an ill-timed drive to the basket, giving Ateneo's George Chia the chance to play the hero's role as the Eagles posted a 72-70 squeaker.

Badly pained by the result, Artadi, James Yap and coach Boysie Zamar trudged to the dugout without singing the UE hymn.

"I can accept that UE fans got angry with me because of what happened. But I can be proud that I gave the best for my school," the 5-foot-10 Artadi said. Artadi, a graduating management major, said he immediately left for home (San Juan, Metro Manila) to soothe his wounded feelings.

Artadi said he summoned all his strength to watch the tape of the game. "I was tempted to penetrate when I saw an opening in the Ateneo defense. I didn't know what happened next but I felt that LA (Tenorio) got a piece of the ball from behind which led to the turnover," said the 21-year-old playmaker.

Artadi still has one year of eligibility with the Red Warriors. But he admits that he is unsure of returning in order to regain his honor in the country's premier collegiate basketball championship.

"It's too early to say whether I'll be back as a Warrior. I'm proud to be a Warrior but there are things which can prevent me from playing next year. Let us just hope for the best," Artadi added.

At present, this Jason Kidd fanatic is busy preparing for the coming PBL Conference in November. Along with teammate Ronald Tubid and former MBA MVP Eddie Laure, Artadi will quarterback bemedalled Welcoat in the PBL wars.

Former tennis official laments Philta decision

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A FORMER tennis official yesterday lamented the decision of Philippine Tennis Association not to send an entry to the Busan Asian Games even though the Philippine Olympic Committee approved of one slot for the sport.

Pablo Olivarez, former Philta president, said the association made a "selfish" decision to deny a Filipino tennis player of a chance to compete in a high-level foreign tournament like the Asian Games.

"It's very saddening to think that no Filipino will be competing in tennis in the Asian Games," said Olivarez, who is also a former mayor of Parañaque. "This is the first time the country didn't send an athlete in the Asiad."

Olivarez even dared Philta officials to resign if they "can't produce a player worthy enough to be sent to Asian Games."

Though no local player made the Asiad criteria, the POC granted one slot for tennis provided that the player to be endorsed is the country's top bet and carries a big potential.

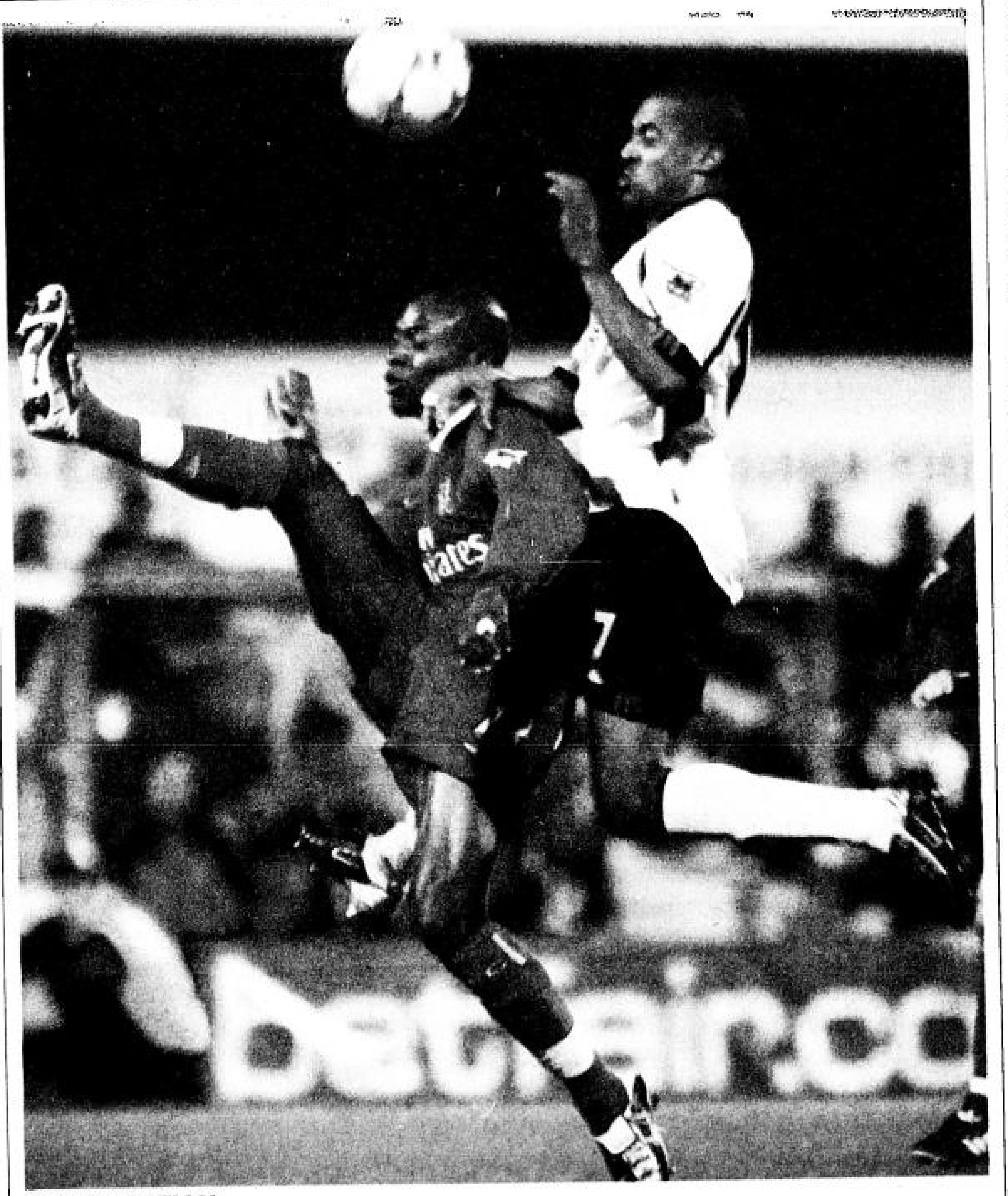
But Philta chief Buddy Andrada refused to send RP No. 1 Johnny Arcilla, saying it is "useless and stupid" to send just one player because he stands no chance against countries which will send full teams.

Andrada maintained that the country must send no less than four players because there are four players who are equally young and all of them carry strong potential to succeed in the future.

"Philippine tennis is now in shambles and the officials are not doing anything about it," said Olivarez, whose daughters, Edna and Eva, and son Edwin have served as RP netters during his reign as Philta head.

Olivarez is being touted to be Andrada's chief rival in the coming Philta elections and has already lined up a comprehensive tennis program starting next year, including the resurrection of the inter-club, open tournaments and age-group tourneys.

The last time the country won a gold medal in the Asian Games was back in 1954 when Johnny Jose took the men's singles championship here in the country.



SOCCER ACTION

Chelsea's William Gallas (left) tries to control the ball against Fulham's Steve Marlet during their English FA Premiership soccer match on Tuesday at the Loftus Ground in London. The match ended in a scoreless tie. AP

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Tiger's Bridge to the Future at 5 p.m. on ESPN

BASEBALL: This Week in Baseball at 12:30 p.m. (r-5:30 p.m.) on ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Stella Artois Championships at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 12 noon on ESPN

FIM World Motorcycle Championship Highlights at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. on Star Sports and 2 p.m. on ESPN

TRACK AND FIELD: European Cup - Super League 2002 at 11 a.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Star slugger hurt as D'backs lose

ST. LOUIS—Arizona star Luis Gonzalez separated his left shoulder in an outfield collision Monday as the Diamondbacks again failed to clinch a playoff spot, losing 13-1 to the St. Louis Cardinals.

There was no immediate word on how long Gonzalez would be sidelined. The left fielder was to be evaluated Tuesday.

Gonzalez is batting .288 with 28 home runs and 103 RBIs. He got the hit that won last year's World Series for the Diamondbacks.

Gonzalez was hurt when he tried to make a diving catch on Tino Martinez's high double in the fourth inning. Shortstop Tony Womack's knee hit Gonzalez's shoulder, and Womack cartwheeled over his teammate.

The Cardinals broke open the game by scoring 10 runs in the seventh inning, and sent Arizona to its fourth straight loss. The National League West leaders have a magic number of one for wrapping up a playoff berth, with six games to go.

Eli Marrero had four hits for the second time in four games. St. Louis tied a season high with 18 hits.

AP

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tampa Bay 3, NY Yankees 2; Boston 5, Baltimore 4 (15 innings).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Houston 8, Milwaukee 6; St. Louis 13, Arizona 1.

Reuters

MOST POPULAR ATHLETE

Australian swimming superstar Ian Thorpe (middle) is shown with a group of young Chinese swimmers at the Muxunyuan Sports School in Beijing, on Tuesday. Thorpe, voted most popular athlete in China by the China Sports Daily, is in the country to promote his charity foundation. AFP

Mandaluyong derby weights submission on

THE SUBMISSION of entries to the San Pablo Heat 5-Stag Derby will be held today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Derby sponsors are Pagcor and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug. Inc.

Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

The one-day derby, to be hosted by consistent derbyists Blandy Tolentino and Manny Santos, will blasts off at 4 p.m. sharp tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 26. Tolentino said that at least 40 participants are seeing action tomorrow where 100 fights are on tap.

Meanwhile, the Ucap Screening Committee 4-Stag Derby is all set on Monday, Sept. 30, with Ariel Garovillo, Tiago Cerilla and Rey Oliveros as hosts. Submission of weights is on Sunday, Sept. 29.

To follow immediately is the 3rd Ucap Anito MB Kalvin Dominator 7-Stag Derby on Oct. 1 and 3 (Tuesday and Thursday). To host the event are Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto, Patrick Puno, Wilvin Sy, Alan Tan and Kerby Chua as promoters.

5 entries show the way

FIVE never-say-die entries posted three straight wins late Monday evening to lead the NCA 7-Stag Derby which enters its four-stag finals tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

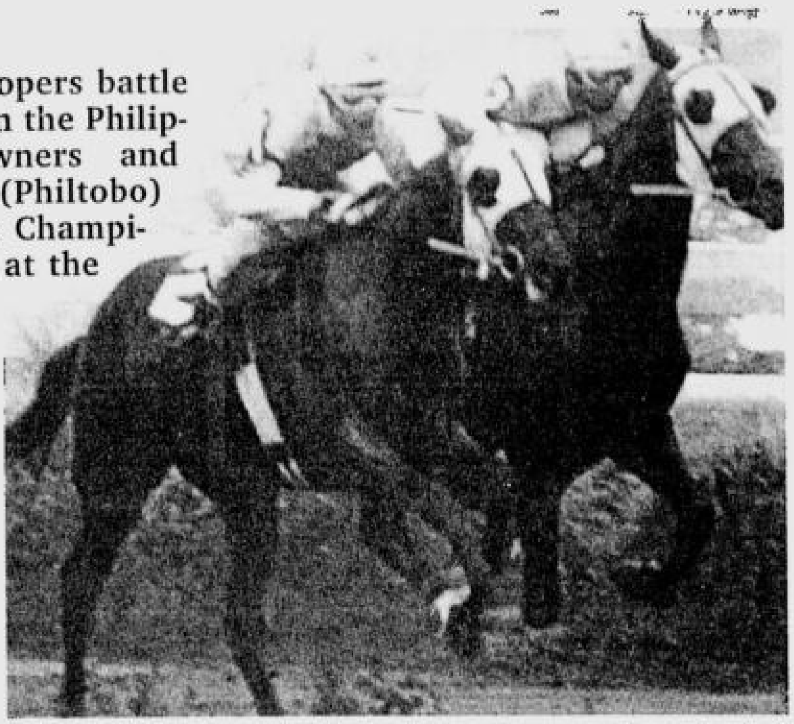
Setting the pace in this blockbuster derby hosted by Gov. Ito Ynares and the pioneer Firefly group are Binangonan Cutting Edge I, Binangonan Cutting Edge II, Pampanga's Clear Cut-Jima Fer, Kamusta Ka and Shio Airport LCC.

With two points each and still in strong contention are Binangonan Cutting Edge 13, Phoenix, Vic-Boy, Bakbakan National Sir Vincent, Bakbakan HRC Otep Santiago City and King Cobra Farm. While with 1-1/2 points are San Rafael Nov. 26-28, Shiq Terminal LCC, San Rafael and Mulawin I.

3rd Mitra Cup race festival slated Oct. 2-6 at Santa Ana

By Edwin Villanueva

THE COUNTRY'S top gallopers battle for supremacy again when the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Organization (Philtobo) stages the 3rd Mitra Cup Championships from Oct. 2 to 6 at the Santa Ana Park.



HERMIE Esguerra's High Octane (left) and Reigns Supreme are the top bets in the 2-Year-Old Colts Championship. FILEPHOTO

Last year's big winners–Batangas Entry, Ilocandia Slew and Golden Ballet–will be back to strut their wares in the racing festival being held in honor of Philtobo's founding chair, the late Speaker Ramon "Monching" Mitra Jr.

"We are truly proud to once again spearhead the staging of this grand racing event, a tribute to the vision of the late Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., who has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of our breed and the standard of our racing," said Philtobo Mitra Cup 2002 Chair Eric R. Tagle, during yesterday's launching at the Holiday Inn Manila.

Highlight of the five-day racing festival is the running of five Mitra Cup Championship Races–the the 3-year-old Colts and 3-year-old Fillies' championship on Oct. 5 (Saturday), and the Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies and the Classic on Oct. 6 (Sunday).

All five major races has a total purse of P500,000 each, with the winner getting P300,000. In addition, winner of the featured races will also receive replicas of the Mitra Cup trophy designed by renowned Filipino artist and sculptor Eduardo Castrillo, who also graced yesterday's affair.

Rudy Mendoza's Batangas Entry won last year's 3-year-old Colts championship, while Ilocandia Slew ruled the Fillies race. They will be squaring off this time in the 2,050-meter Classic where Kitty Hawk and Lord of All are also entered.

Multiple stakes winner Golden Ballet and Mighty Strong, on the other hand, will tackle separate rivals in the 3-year-old Filly and Colt divisions over 1,600 meters.

In the Juvenile ranks, a rematch between Hermie Esguerra's Tatler Cover and Marlon Cunanan's Shining Pyramid will ensue in the 2YO Fillies championship. Esguerra is also fielding the formidable duo of High Octane and Reigns Supreme in the 2YO Colts Championship. Both races will be disputed over a distance of 1,500 meters.

In addition to the five Mitra Cup races, other featured racing events lined up for the week include the Japan Racing Association (JRA) Trophy Race, an open race for both imports and locals co-presented by the Philippine Racing Club, Inc. and the Manila Jockey Club Inc. in cooperation with the Tokyo-based JRA and the monthly PCSO Sweepstakes Race for maiden 2-year-olds, a P450,000-guaranteed race sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

A number of exciting Special Races have also been lined up. Each races carry guaranteed prizes ranging from P140,000 to P170,000 to the winners.

Major sponsors of the weeklong festivities include the Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Emperador Brandy, PhilSuisse Financial Services and Consultancy Inc., EEG Development Corp. San Miguel Corporation and Manilabank.

Also present yesterday were Philracom commissioner Rogelio A. Tandiama, representing Philracom chief Jaime A. Dilag, PRCI executive vice president and chief operating officer Ramon Ereñeta Jr., Joaquin Mitra (representing the Mitra family) and the members of the Philtobo Board led by its chair, Antonio M. Lagdameo and president, Bienvenido C. Niles Jr.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Paulo Valdez and George Fernandez tallied 1397 pinfalls to bag the doubles plum of the 3rd SJBA (San Juan Bowling Association) Invitational Open tenpin championships at the Greenlanes. Also today in 1994, Jethro Dionisio notched 1221.77 points to settle for silver in the US Practical Shooting national championships in Barry, Illinois.

Potenciano heads truck, car show guest speakers

TOP racing driver Mike Potenciano will be one of the special guests at the formal opening of the 2002 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show today at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Fresh from his convincing back-to-back victories at the tough Asian Formula 2000 series, Potenciano has proven to all that he has got what it takes to win, given the proper car, support and a dedicated racing crew.

To share his insights and expertise in motor sports, Potenciano will hold a series of seminars during the five-day event for the benefit of the show visitors from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The veteran racer will dwell on the subject of "How to get started in Motorsports through Karting." He will again conduct a seminar on "Advance Racing Techniques" scheduled for Sept. 27, from 5-6:30 p.m., followed immediately by his final seminar, from 6:30-8 p.m. on "How to get Sponsors for a Race Team and Event."

Other major sport seminars will be on "How to get Started in Circuit Racing" on Sept. 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. Sports Values Inc. Race Motorsports Club will conduct a seminar on Sept. 26 from 5-6:30 p.m. and Sept. 27 from 2-3:30 p.m. on the "Basics of Slalom racing," another excellent entry level racing program that will greatly enhance the driver's skill in car control.

Racer Trevor Briggs will enlighten visitors about "Car Rally" and how everyone can get started in that racing discipline on Sept. 29, from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

JP Tuason will talk about "Making Motorsports a Career."

Bucs clobber Rams, 26-14

TAMPA, Florida–The defending National Football Conference champion St. Louis Rams dropped to 0-3 Monday, hardly resembling a team that's been to the Super Bowl two of the past three seasons in a 26-14 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs' vaunted defense knocked running back Marshall Faulk out of the game and intercepted Kurt Warner four times to key their third straight victory in a heated rivalry that began with the Rams' 11-6 win in the 1999 NFC championship game.

Brad Johnson threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Rickey Dudley and Martin Gramatica kicked field goals of 39 and 47 yards to help the Bucs (2-1) build a 13-7 halftime lead.

Brian Kelly's interception and 31-yard return to the St. Louis 1 set up Mike Alstott's TD plunge to put Tampa Bay up 19-7 with 10:42 to go. The Rams pulled within five points on Lamar Gordon's 20-yard TD run, but couldn't score again over the final 4:21.

Linebacker Derrick Brooks put the finishing touch on the victory, returning an interception 39 yards for a TD, a score assured when Warren Sapp flattened Warner near the goal line. He also scored on a 97-yard interception return in Tampa Bay's 25-0 win over Baltimore last week.

Faulk, who rushed for 9 yards on six carries, left with a neck strain early in the second quarter and did not return. He scored on a 5-yard run in the first quarter and finished with 9 yards on six carries. *AP*

Ali's kid OKs deal

PERRYSBURG, Ohio –A daughter of Muhammad Ali agreed Monday to enter a theft diversion program to avoid facing shoplifting charges.

Hana Yasmeen Ali, 26, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, agreed to the deal with prosecutors in Perrysburg Municipal Court.

She was charged last week with trying to shoplift bedding from a store in suburban Toledo. *AP*

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FIL-AM GOLFEST

CAP-Southwoods eyeing 4th crown

BAGUIO CITY—Defending champions CAP-Manila Southwoods and DHL Mizuno will be at the forefront of an international field of 60 teams competing in the 53rd Fil-Am Golf Invitational slated here in December.

The CAP-Southwoods squad will be seeking its fourth straight Fil crown. DHL Mizuno upset CAP-Southwoods last year to win the Am trophy and prevented Southwoods' unprecedented bid for a third consecutive sweep of both events.

The championship will be played at the Camp John Hay Golf Club and the Baguio Country Club from December 2 to 7 with Smart Communications as presenter and College Assurance Plan and Northwest Airlines as major sponsors.

Wilson, Bluecross and Ubix Corp. are the other backers of the annual event that has its auspicious beginnings in 1949.

With 60 teams, it means that 600 players from all over the globe will be in the City of Pines for over a week competing in what the Guinness Book of Records claimed as the world's largest amateur tournament.

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4. Grand draw shall be on January 9, 2003, 4:00pm at the CreativePro+ office, 675 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City. Winners shall be announced via GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga!" on January 11, 2003 from 12:00nn to 2:00pm.
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‘Making us leave is like killing us’ /A26

Bare Eye: Without super Seigle, RP team need not fear /A26

Editor Louie C. Camino

Dinglasan: Probe MTRCB anomalies

By Philip C. Tubeza and Marinel Cruz

TWO presidential appointees to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board could have earned "millions" in commissions from the transfer of the MTRCB office from one building to another, the lawyer of embattled MTRCB chair Mari-len Y. Dinglasan said yesterday.

Lawyer Nick Conti made the disclosure even as a businesswoman who had accused Dinglasan of estafa alleged that the chief censor and her husband changed their names to escape paying their debts 16 years ago.

Conti told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that two of the 30 MTRCB board members profited millions after they brokered the deal for the transfer of the board's offices.

The lawyer said one board member brokered the transfer from Atlanta Gold Hills Tower on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan to the Aurora Milestones building in Cubao, Quezon City.

Another board member brokered the MTRCB's transfer from Aurora Milestones to its present office at Presidents Tower on Timog Avenue, also in Quezon City, Dinglasan's lawyer added.

The transfers happened within less than six months.

Conti said he has witnesses who have already executed sworn statements about the transfers.

But the witnesses would be presented only in the "proper forum," he said.

Dinglasan wrote NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, asking him to investigate MTRCB chief accountant Arles Mirandilla and administrative officer V Susan Bancodin for their failure to account for more than P3 million in government funds.

Dinglasan said the Office of the Ombudsman has recommended that the two officials be investigated, adding that this might only be the "tip of the iceberg."

"Given the pattern of irregularities that we have discovered, we suspect the involvement of more people in these questionable transactions," Dinglasan said in a statement.

She alleged that records and documents pertinent to the questionable account were "sanitized."

She said executive director Rachel Ray, Mirandilla, Bandolin, a legal officer and the acting board secretary, told her they could not show her the "subsidiary ledgers" and other financial documents because the documents were left behind at the Atlanta Gold Hills Tower .

Dinglasan also alleged that Ray, Bandolin, and others made a "veiled try at bribing me" to release two checks for P918,000 for the repair of the Aurora Milestone offices although the repairs were not yet complete.

Accountant Mirandilla said, "Everything is fully accounted for." He said a detailed breakdown of the P3.1-million receivables and the P1.2-million cash

DINGLASAN/ A26

2 nabbed in ₱30M investment scam

By Alcuin Papa

POLITICIANS could be involved in the P30-million peso investment scam that duped about 200 officials of the Philippine National Police, according to the victims.

Two of the suspects, both officials of the International Commodity Sales (ICS), were arrested on Monday by members of the National Capital Region Police Office and the Central Police District in Quezon City.

They were identified as Emilia Sison alias Imelda Sison, 48, of Filinvest East Home, Cainta, Rizal; and Domingo Mirasol, 52, of Tagos, Daraga, Albay.

One of their victims spotted Sison and Mirasol at 3 p.m. Monday in front of the Metrobank branch on Gen. Romulo Street at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City and the victim called for police assistance.

Policemen arrested the suspects on the strength of a warrant of arrest for large-scale fraud issued by Davao City Regional Trial Court Branch 10 Judge Augusto Nueva.

Police said Mirasol is also facing charges of grave threats and usurpation of authority for allegedly identifying himself as a policeman and poking a gun at one Pedro Constantino.

A victim of the scam, businesswoman Zeny Rufon, said authorities must immediately investigate and prosecute the suspects "until they end up in jail."

Rufon and the other victims said politicians might be involved in the scam since some ranking officials were seen visiting Sison in her office.

"We want our hard-earned money back and we want to see them (suspects) in jail," Rufon told reporters.

Sources at the CPD said some of the victims included former Sr. Supts. Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino.

Mancao and Aquino, two of the closest officers of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he was still the PNP chief, were said to have invested P3 million each with Sison.

About 30 victims have already filed complaints against Sison before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

The victims accused Sison of soliciting from them anywhere between P50,000 and P3 million as investments and promising them a 10 to 15 percent return on their investments after a month. But it was not clear where their money was invested, the victims said.

They said Sison had issued them post-dated checks, but when the amounts in the checks reached millions, the checks bounced when they tried to cash them.

Sison claimed she was not aware who were her investors but said she would take responsibility as president of the company.

Lauding the CPD for the arrest of the suspects, NCRPO chief Deputy Dir. Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said most of the victims had invested their retirement benefits and hard-earned money.

BIG FEET FORWARD
Three elephants from Thailand rehearse tricks with their Thai trainer in preparation for their show, with seven others of their kind, at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City in October. JOAN BONDOC

Cell phone snatcher gets 6 years

By Agnes E. Donato

A CELL PHONE snatcher yesterday was sentenced to six years in jail for robbing and stabbing a University of the Philippines student last April.

Convicted of robbery and attempted homicide was Ullah Mastura, 25, of Masambahin Street, Teachers Village, Quezon City.

In her seven-page decision, Judge Thelma Ponferrada of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 104 also ordered Mastura to pay P20,000 in moral damages to victim Mary Angeli Maravilla, 19.

Court records say the robbery and stabbing took place while Maravilla was sitting by the lagoon in the UP Diliman campus at about 10 a.m. last April 24.

A man, whom Maravilla later identified as Mastura, pointed a knife at her and asked for her Nokia 3310 mobile phone.

Maravilla told the court that she gave the phone to Mastura, who then fled. When she thought that the robber had already gone a safe distance from her, she walked towards the main road to ask people for help, she said.

But to her surprise, Mastura suddenly came back. She said she started shouting and running for help, but Mastura caught up with her and tried to stab her in the left side of the body.

She tried to parry the attack and she was hit in the left hand instead. She sustained an eight-centimeter laceration.

Mastura was later arrested by the UP police. Maravilla's cell phone was recovered from him.

In his defense, Mastura said he was waiting for a ride in the campus when a security guard accosted him and accused him of snatching someone's cell phone.

Judge Ponferrada noted that there was "no substantial imperfection in the testimony of the complainant who had no reason to concoct false charges against (Mastura)."

Makati motorcyle cops to go after snatchers

TO CURB the rising number of cell phone thefts, the Makati police will deploy plainclothes cops on motorcycles in densely populated parts of the city.

According to Makati Chief of Police Supt. Jose Gutierrez, the police officers will be deployed in shopping malls, public markets and intersections to ensure prompt action in case of theft and robbery incidents, including cell phone snatching.

"These plainclothes men will be on board motorcycles so that they can act quickly when criminal incidents are brought to their attention, which we hope will lead to the quick apprehension of criminals," Gutierrez said in a statement.

He said he made the decision following a directive from Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who noted the increase in the number of complaints of cell phone thefts committed by men on motorcycles and on board public utility vehicles.

Gutierrez said people can report crime incidents in Makati by dialing the hotline 168 or calling 899-9014 to 15 for police assistance. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Leptospirosis cases rise

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit has warned people in Metro Manila against unnecessarily exposing themselves to floodwater, noting that cases of leptospirosis have doubled this year compared to last year.

In a statement issued on Monday, Dayrit said the potentially fatal disease has so far infected 232 people, 19 of whom died this year.

"Let us avoid wading in floodwater as it could be contaminated with urine or tissues of infected animals which may result in leptospirosis," said Dayrit.

He explained that the spirochete bacteria that cause the disease has the ability to pierce and enter human skin.

The bacteria are present in pools of water where rats infected with the disease urinate or defecate.

Persons with the disease suffer from fever, headache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting.
Armand Nocum

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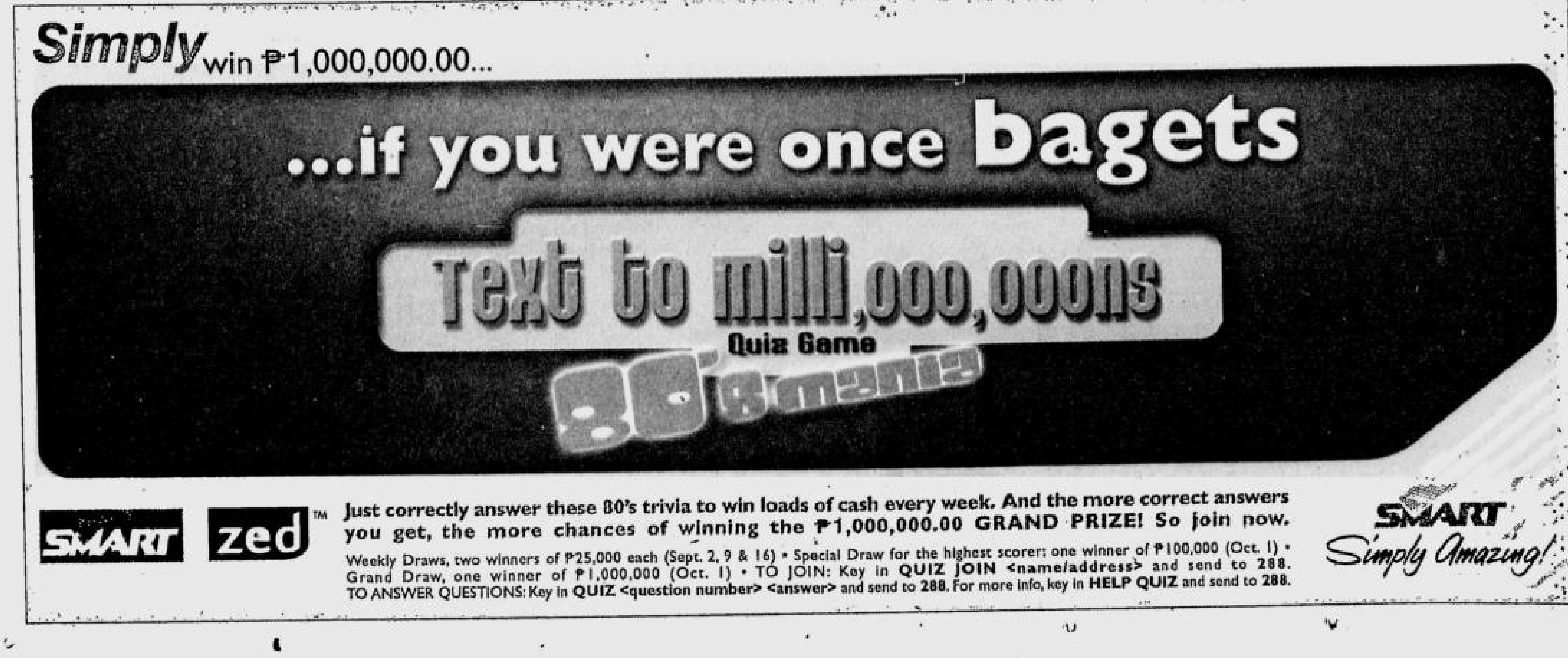

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SMART Simply Amazing!

'Making us leave is like killing us'

By Leila B. Salaverria

FROM the danger zone to the death zone.

Squatters living along riverbanks in Metro Manila said this would be their fate once the Metro Manila Development Authority begins to demolish their homes to implement the 10-meter easement rule.

Members of the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod yesterday demonstrated in front of the MMDA office in Makati to protest the looming relocation of the settlers.

The protesters brought with them pots and pans and children in ragged clothes to show that the MMDA's campaign would impoverish them more.

But MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he is only implementing the law which provides that the 10-meter easement on the banks of the Pasig River should be free from structures.

"That's the legal easement," he said. "The (easement) is really public property."

An MMDA official earlier warned informal settlers that their lives could be endangered if they refused to leave the banks of waterways.

But Don Pangan of KPML said the MMDA's plan would be no less deadly for the 70,000 settlers that would be affected.

"If we leave our homes, that would be as effective as killing us because there would be no relocation sites for us," Pangan said.

He said there should be inter-agency talks among the informal settlers, the National Housing Authority, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the MMDA before Fernando begins demolishing homes.

But Fernando said that even before he was appointed MMDA chair, there have already been meetings among the housing agencies and the informal settlers.

Pangan said the settlers are willing to leave the banks as long as they are assured of relocation sites within the metropolis.

Fernando maintained that not all informal settlers deserve to be helped, as there are some who insist on returning even after receiving new homes.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said in a statement that the present administration is actually removing the settlers' homes because the homes are an eyesore.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna on Sunday warned that the MMDA would start cleaning its 15 pumping stations as part of its flood-control program.

"Stop fooling the Filipino people," said Ron Hubbard, Bayan-NCR spokesperson. "Behind the countless reasons the MMDA is releasing, BF (really) only wants to wipe-out what they consider as eye-sores."

He said thousands of families will be "gravely affected" by this new MMDA program in Makati, Pasay, and Manila.

With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

Barangay leaders probed in killing of former PJ photographer

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA police are investigating some barangay officials for their possible involvement in the killing of former People's Journal photographer Perry Baluyot after a witness had said that he saw a barangay councilor help suspect Upao Makabeta escape, an investigator said.

"The barangay kagawad allegedly drove off with Upao on board a scooter after the killing," the investigator said.

Makabenta stabbed dead Baluyot, 42, of 11th Street, Port Area, Manila, on Sunday afternoon, said Detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Baluyot was talking to a witness at 2:30 p.m. in front of the house of barangay chair Ibrahim Macalanta on 12th Street, near the corner of Atlanta Street, also in Port Area, when Makabenta arrived.

The witness told police he had noticed Baluyot and Makabenta exchange dagger looks before the stabbing.

He quoted Makabenta as saying in Filipino, "Don't be paranoid. I have been through that even when I was still in Davao."

Makabenta then stabbed Baluyot in the back and escaped, the witness said.

Baluyot was brought to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital but he was declared dead on arrival.

Police said Makabenta arrived in Manila five months ago from the province.

Makabenta fled to Manila because he was also wanted in Davao for killing another person, police said.

QC businessman slain in attempted kidnapping, say cops

By Alcuin Papa

KIDNAPPING is the most probable motive in the killing of businessman Jonnel Mendiola in Quezon City, according to National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Deputy Dir. Gen. Reynaldo Velasco.

"It was an attempted abduction but the victim resisted, so he was shot," Velasco told reporters yesterday.

But he said police have not excluded the love triangle angle in the killing of Mendiola.

"That (love triangle) is one of the angles being looked into by our investigators," he said.

Police are also considering the possibility that the suspects were hired by the former lover of Mendiola's girlfriend Jamie Liu.

He denied that the bullet that killed Mendiola came from policemen who engaged the two suspects in a shootout.

"The laboratory exams confirmed that the bullet that killed the victim came from the firearm of the suspects and not from police," Velasco said.

Mendiola was killed Sunday when Gregorio Lazaro and Mariano Domingo tried to abduct him after he brought his girlfriend home.

Policemen engaged the suspects in a shootout and later arrested them. The body of Mendiola was found in his Kia Pregio van. He had two gunshot wounds and face lacerations.

Without super Seigle, RP team need not fear

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU can't win a basketball game with only one man.

You can't have a band with only one bugle star.

But you sure have heard of this so-called one-man army.

On Monday, Dan Seigle appeared raring and ready to do just that: win the battle all by his lonesome.

Seigle seemed to have grown wings. No exaggeration.

Seigle leapt and loomed, reprising the young Michael Jordan as he slammed dramatic basket after basket right in the face of stunned players from Qatar.

The RP team star indeed appeared much sharper, stronger than the three-bladed offensive threat his coach had said he was.

He must have felt sweet as gold each time he would land to the delirious delight of the home crowd after a thundering dunk.

Pure and fulfilled like a rare gem.

Then, out of nowhere, Seigle fell and crumbled on all fours.

He had torn his Achilles tendon in a routine block try.

He was declared out of the national squad.

All flights have been cancelled for the winged wonder the rest of the season.

***

Grieving cries predictably followed.

Seigle fanatics claimed the Philippines had lost more than half of its chance at winning the gold medal with the exit of their man.

Bereaved, national coach Jong Uichico could only nod in meek agreement.

There was nobody to fit Seigle's flying shoes.

But, in order to complete the starting five, Uichico pushed Kenneth Duremdes into the RP starting five.

Ironically, Duremdes is the very same point-maker who, as the RP coaching staff had decreed, could not match up. The reason he had been used very sparingly in previous combats.

This is not meant to make coach Uichico feel bad. But there next came suggestions that the Busan basketball gold medal quest could have ended with the Seigle exit.

***

Well, as this could help coach Uichico, he must also be advised that, in the strictest sense, the Seigle exit could be a blessing in disguise.

OK, Seigle had been expected to slash, slam, sizzle from all angles.

He would have been a Rambo on the hardcourt with an assortment of heavy arms to give hell to the enemies in Busan.

A one-man army, indeed. He could pour it on in various styles.

But, looking back, it should go without saying that Seigle was hardly a factor when it came to holding back enemy fire.

This had regularly escaped the excited, untrained eye. But Seigle was, more often than not, a liability in defense.

Not exactly a lame duck, the way he had been quietly charged, but this superstar dubbed as The Dynamite had all too willingly allowed crippling explosions from the opposing side.

He was the kind of sharp, high-scoring star who could also be a major liability at crunch time.

***

Anyway, it's nice to know that coach Uichico has made rush-rush adjustments.

But if this could be worth his while, Uichico should, with the crippling of his main gun, fortify his flanks.

There should be harder emphasis on defensive walling now.

Of course, this is easier said than done.

Shelving the individual, greedy style of play, the main problem in the PBA, had proved hard enough.

But the bigger challenge for the RP squad, after the exit of its top gunman, is how to make team members man the flanks as one.

You can't win a basketball championship with only one man.

But you could stall a flood of enemy basket by walling up as one.

So what if Seigle can no longer fly around?

There will be more than enough talents who will pick up the scoring load.

In the first place, winning defense doesn't happen up in the sky.

Everybody must stay solidly on the ground.

DINGLASAN FILE PHOTO

Dinglasan seeks . . .

From page A25

advances was left in the MTRCB storage room in Greenhills.

"I sent collection letters to the companies involved," Mirandilla said of his collection task. "Though most of them paid their dues, the others are now closed companies."

Dnglasan also said that early in her term as MTRCB chair, she also discovered:

* A gross disadvantageous lease contract allowing the forfeiture of approximately P800,000 in rental deposits and P7 million in renovation of the MTRCB office at Atlanta Gold Hills Tower. This happened during the time of Chairperson Armida Sigueon Reyna, Dinglasan said.

* Another grossly disadvatageous contract allowing the forfeiture of about P1.2 million in office rental deposits and P2 million in renovations of the Aurora Milestones, paid to C.A. Ventura and Partners.

Contractor Dindo Ventura said the alleged involvement of his company was "surprising."

"The truth is that the MTRCB still owes my company some P490,000," Ventura said.

*Awarding the construction and renovation of the MTRCB office at Aurora Milestone to Vencon Construction without public bidding.

*Hiring and paying a technical consultant to undertake the renovation of the Aurora Milestone office "by the name of architect Luis M. Zialcita for the shocking amount of P45,000/month, which is higher than the salary of the head of the agency."

To escape from paying debts she incurred 16 years ago, Dinglasan and her husband changed their names from Maria Elena and Raphael to Mari-len and Adolfo, according to lawyer Raul Lambino.

Lambino is handling an estafa case filed against the Dinglasans by businesswoman Carmelita Romero, who said a P50,000 check the Dinglasans issued to her in 1986 bounced.

A warrant was issued for Dinglasan's arrest in the bouncing check case, but Dinglasan posted the bail of P1,000.

Romero's lawyer said it took his client a long time to pursue the case because they had to verify the identity of the accused. "Maybe the changes in their names were intentional," Lambino said.

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Las Piñas City wages war on litterbugs

STARTING Oct. 1, dumping of garbage on the streets and in the waterways of Las Piñas City will be prohibited and litterbugs will be fined P1,000 and jailed for a maximum of six months.

Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar made this warning in a statement as he pointed out that Las Piñas has been Metro Manila's cleanest and greenest city for three consecutive years and a United Nations Environmental Program awardee for environmental protection in 2000.

Aguilar said dumping of garbage along the Alabang-Zapote Road, Naga Street, Jorge Aguilar Avenue and CAA Road is now considered illegal.

He explained that residents living in these areas are allowed to dump their garbage daily in designated places from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. only.

Aguilar said he directed Noli Riel, in charge of the city's garbage collection and waste management, to conduct a massive information campaign to avoid confusion on the new dumping scheme.

He also appealed to residents to manage their garbage properly by recycling and segregation of wet and dry garbage to reduce the volume of refuse collected daily.

Records from the city's Environmental Sanitation Center show that about 600 cubic meters of garbage are collected daily in Las Piñas, equivalent to 60 garbage trucks a day..

Las Piñas has more than 295 subdivisions and villages and a population of more than half a million this year, the statement said.

Holy Infant College grand reunion

HOLY Infant College (HIC) is calling on all its alumni to attend the fourth grand homecoming on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kanhuraw Convention Center at the City Hall in Kanhuraw Hills, Tacloban City.

Registration fee is P250,000. A city-wide motorcade and other day-long festivities in the school grounds and elsewhere will precede the affair.

HIC High School batch 1977 is host.

The homecoming, dubbed "Urapong," coincides with the school's 78th foundation day.

"Urapong," a centuries-old Waray-Waray term, strictly refers to a bunch of fruits. But in their batch essay, the host class wrote: "We would like to think that it can also refer to a cohesion of vegetables, flowers, add on whatever you like, even broomsticks.

"Urapongs could separately or all at once be things of necessity, beauty and utility. It could in fact significantly be a clustering of people."

In Manila, please call Land Pascual at 873-1783 or 872-2087; Ado Cervania, 741-9936 or 0916-3686684; Tetet Advincula-Maghari, 527-9860 (office) or 0919-7675872; and Lea Palito, 245-2088 (office), 253-9306 (residence) or 0920-2528953; and in Tacloban, Joy Pobre-Bigute, 321-2171 or 0919-611842.

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2 K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
3 SIMONE 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
4 ROAD TO PERDITION 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
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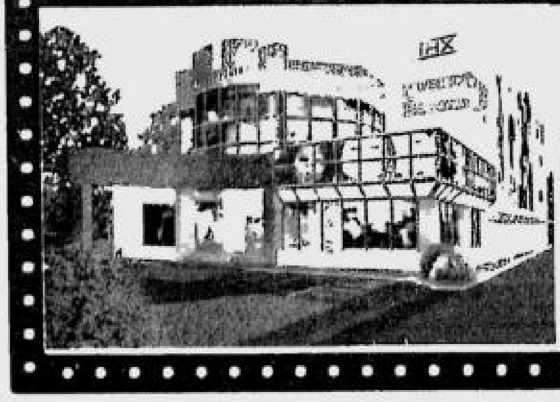

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9 REIGN OF FIRE
10 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

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5 ROAD TO PERDITION
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8 K-19

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6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

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4 ENOUGH

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2 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH

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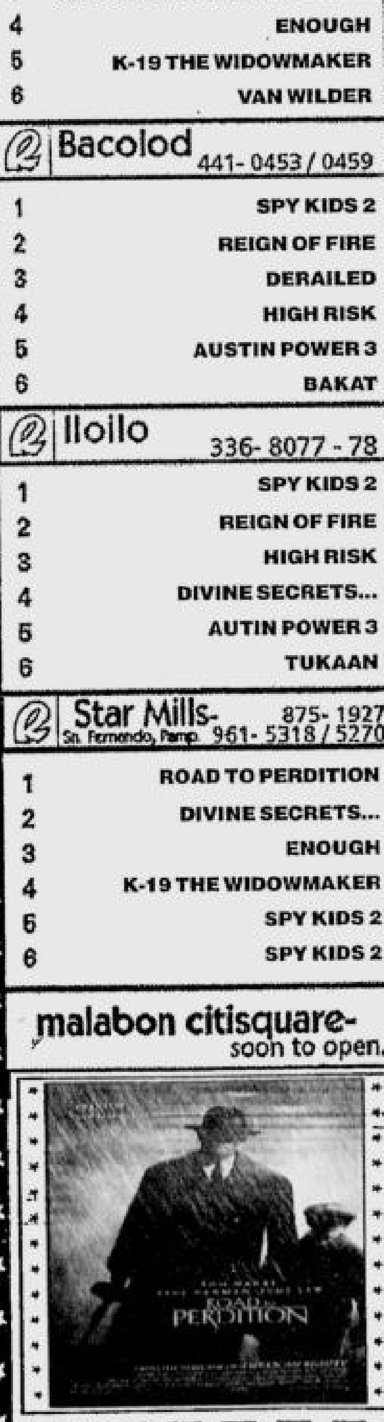

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ORANGE HAIR and all, Calvin is apprehensive that he might not be able to do his "Rocky Horror Show" role well, but director Bobby Garcia thinks the actor can pull it off.

Calvin Millado in drag

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CALVIN Millado, he of the towering physique and the rippling muscles, in drag?

That's rather unthinkable, especially to those who know Calvin as a gorgeous and lovable hunk, with a body that is the envy of men even younger than the 32-year-old performer.

But it didn't take much convincing to make Calvin wear five-inch platforms, makeup, colorful ladies' costumes and orange-colored hair for his role as the sweet transvestite Frank n' Furter in "The Rocky Horror Show."

It only took noted theater director **Bobby Garcia** to tell Calvin about the role. It helped that Calvin worked with Bobby in the musical, "Rent," where Calvin earned good notice for his performance as Roger.

"Bobby simply told me, 'Calvin, you're going to do this,' and he meant the role of Frank n' Furter," Calvin shares. "Even if I was not familiar with the musical, I said yes to Bobby. That's how much I trust him. When I joined 'Rent,' I didn't know a thing about it. I failed to see it when I was in Broadway. I even exchanged my tickets for an off-Broadway show and watched 'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change,' instead."

Calvin leads the cast of "The Rocky Horror Show," which Atlantic Productions will mount from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza Building in Makati.

The rock musical features an all-star cast that includes **Aiza Seguerra** in the dual role of Eddie and Dr. Scott (with **Chari Arespacochaga** as alternate), **Jett Pangan** as the butler Riff Raff, **Bituin Escalante** as the groupie from hell Columbia, **Anna Fegi** as the chambermaid Magenta, **Joel Trinidad** and **Cathy Azanza** as the newly engaged couple Brad and Janet, with **Michael de Mesa** in the special role of the narrator.

In true horror film fashion, "The Rocky Horror Show" is the story of an ordinary couple in an unforgettable night at the Frank n' Furter castle.

Calvin says he initially had reservations about doing a transvestite role on stage.

"I was too pessimistic that I couldn't do it," he says. "I don't know the nuances of being gay. I love it and I hate it. Up to now, I don't know if I can do justice to it, but I'm looking forward to doing it."

Bobby attests that when Calvin recorded the single, "Sweet Transvestite" for the radio promo, Calvin was a natural.

"Calvin always has reservations in everything he does, but he also gets excited with every role," Bobby says of his lead actor. "When he did Roger in 'Rent,' it took me many phone calls to convince him. Even if he's only performing at Country Waffles, you have to motivate him and tell him he can do it.

"But what's nice about Calvin is that he trusts me. He has the innocence of a kid. You can tell him what to do and he does it well."

Bobby also had to nag Calvin to audition for "The Lion King" production in Australia, where he is being considered to play the role of Mufasa, Simba's father.

Calvin has indeed come a long way from his first stage musical. He played the dual roles of Isagani and Elias in Ryan Cayabyab's "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo."

His first musical from Broadway

CALVIN/ A31

From perdition to self-redemption

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SAM Mendes' "Road to Perdition" gives **Tom Hanks** his most difficult role to date: an "executioner" for the Mob in Chicago in the 1930s who is also a family man, and must go against his all-powerful boss when his wife and younger son are shot to death by his boss' son.

In that capsule description, we can get a good idea of the complex acting challenge that the role offers Hanks. His boss (**Paul Newman**) is like his surrogate father; in fact, this is bitterly resented by Newman's real son.

Also, while Hanks is a family man, he is generally cold and distant to his sons, because he doesn't want them to know his violent kind of work. Thus, while he's their father, he doesn't know how to express his love for them. Worse, he doesn't want them to become criminals, so he's stunned when his older son witnesses one of his bloody encounters.

This triggers the "insurance" execution of his wife and younger son, which prompts Hanks to get back at his surrogate father. This is the most terrible thing he's ever done, because Newman is one of the few people he's loved, but the murder of his loved ones demands nothing less.

Hanks and his older son finally bond in their grief and anger, and start to carry out their plan of vengeance. Unknown to them, however, another "executioner" has been hired to kill Hanks. This character played by **Jude Law** matches Hanks' brilliance and cold-blooded efficiency, and their duel to the death is what galvanizes the last third of the film.

Even at this terrifying point, however, Hanks is most concerned about preventing his surviving son from also turning to a life of violence. Thus do we see that, despite all of the monstrous things he's done in the course of his "evil" life, Hanks is *not* beyond self-redemption.

Mendes tells a very dark story, unenlivened by the on-target social commentary that made parts of his first hit film, "American Beauty," so droll. In "Road to Perdition," the director has no time for cute comments or other distractions. "Road to Perdition" plays like a Greek tragedy performed in pained whispers, but its theme and repercussions still end up as larger than life.

Newman's characterization of Hanks' boss dovetails right into this neo-classical bent. He is so all-powerful that he comes across as a veritable god who can dictate when a person lives, and when he dies. And yet, he can also be loving, and religious (he's shown receiving Holy Communion)!

These and other contradictions make his role similarly daunting, and the good news is that Newman is entirely up to the difficult challenge.

Viewers would have been happy with these two fine lead performances from Hanks and Newman, but this production provides a bonus in Jude Law's compellingly chilling portrayal of Hanks' young counter-executioner.

In his other screen appearances, Law usually comes across as handsome and charismatic. In "Road to Perdition," however, he transforms himself into a small, shuffling, sour and decidedly unnerving character, a nasty ferret who won't let-go of his prey, come what may.

After viewing "Road to Perdition," viewers get a clearer un-

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Jay Manalo more comfortable in bold films than in dramas

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

HUNK best describes Jay Manalo.

On the screen, Jay has made love to some of the sexiest stars, from the "Pantasya ng Bayan" Joyce Jimenez (with whom he had a turbulent affair when both of them were not yet big stars) to Assunta de Rossi of the current crop of sex sirens and to former sex goddess Alma Moreno.

The tag flatters Jay a lot for it boosts his ego and enhances his masculinity, but he also doubts whether he can get away from it easily. It is a case of being typecast but Jay is not complaining.

Manny Valera, his new manager, says: "Jay is in a kind of business that depends on trends. Bold flicks are back and so is Jay. It is all part of packaging. The best thing about it is that he can be *bida* and *kontrabida* at the same time."

Jay is the leading man of new sexpot Aubrey Miles in "Prosti," a Regal Films sex drama. It is the first time for both stars to be directed by Erik Matti, whose certified hits include "Scorpio Nights 2," "Ekis" and "Huling Paghihintay."

Patience

ONLY after viewing the rushes of "Prosti" did Jay completely understand why it took Erik hours to set up shots, which nearly caused the actor to lose his patience.

"Absolutely fantastic *at sulit ang paghihintay at pagpapagod namin*," Jay says. "The simulated shots of our lovemaking were beautifully erotic and very stylish."

"Prosti" is the story of a hooker (Aubrey) who falls for a pimp, played by Jay. It is a love affair doomed from the very beginning, although the lovers try their best to lead a new life.

Viewers always have the impression that movie love scenes are exciting to do, especially as far as the stars involved are concerned. Not for Jay, though.

"If only they know how difficult these scenes are," he says. "We had to perform in a cabinet. Even though every move was choreographed, it was so cramped inside the cabinet. One side of the cabinet had been removed to give access to the cameras. Aubrey and I felt like we were spiders inside a matchbox. *Masikip, mainit. Grabe ang hirap.*

"The same is true with our lovemaking in a tricyle. Our movements were restricted but we had to pretend we were enjoying what we were doing."

The tricycle scene was filmed in the wee hours, complete with matching rain effects.

Professional

JAY is all praise for Aubrey who took everything in a professional manner. "I never heard her complain," he says. "She simply followed Matti's instructions. If she maintains her professional attitude, she will easily go places."

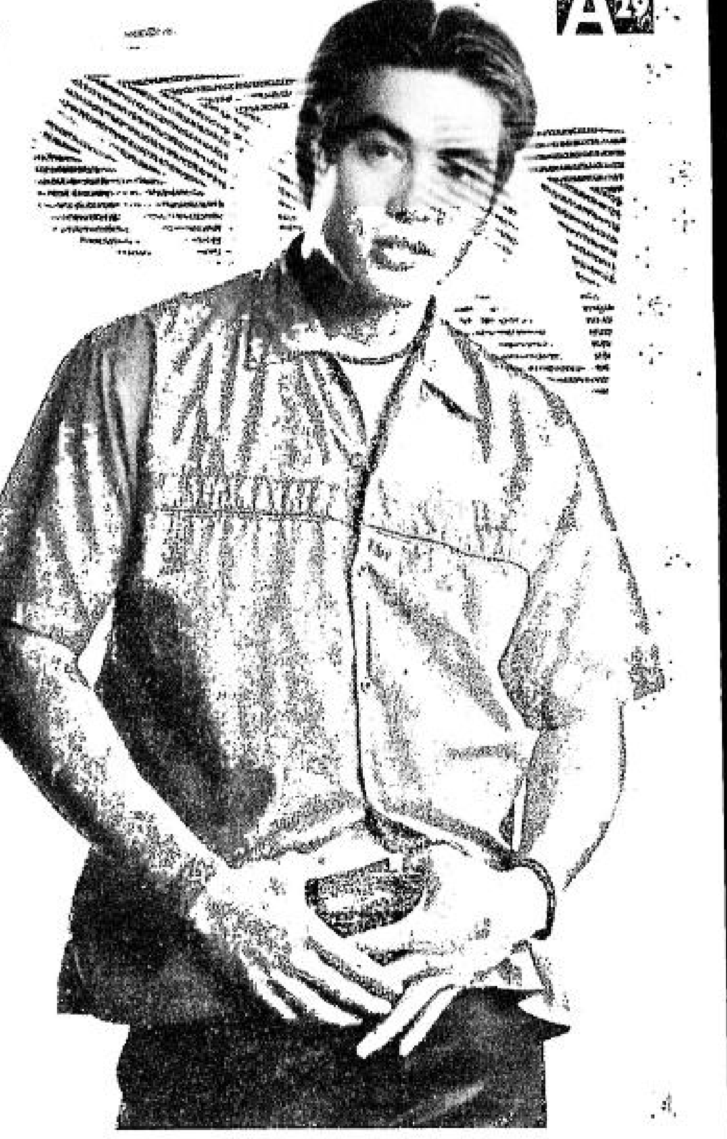
Aubrey returns the compliment: "To think that all those who hit it big like Joyce Jimenez and Assunta de Rossi at one time have been paired with Jay. That's big enough for someone like me, a first-timer.

"Some people warned me about Jay and his moods on the set. I can only say one thing. He is so pleasant to work with, very supportive and always in a happy mood."

Jay is gradually emerging as a serious dramatic actor after being handled by Joel Lamangan ("Hubog"), Mel Chionglo ("Kapalit"), and now Matti.

"I still have much to learn from other respected directors," says Jay. "I still feel uncomfortable in dramatic moments. I have to double my concentration, which Mel advised me to do when we worked in 'Kapalit.' But I am very much at ease playing a bad guy in a bold movie."

After "Prosti," Jay will be reunited with former girlfriend Joyce in a modern version of "Paraisong Parisukat" retitled "Masikip, Mainit." This is directed by Jose Javier Reyes, and Jay is assured of another learning experience as an actor.



HUNKY BADDIE Jay is typecast as a baddie in sexy movies but he's not complaining.

Jolina Magdangal dares to be sexy!

By Marinel R. Cruz

SHE WAS dressed up as a Japanese in "Jolina," and then she was a 1950s diva in "On Memory Lane." In her new album, Jolina is transformed into a stylish and sexy vamp.

Jolina sexy?

"Jolina wants to continually reinvent herself," says her dad Jun Magdangal, who is also her manager. "She sees to it that every new album is very different from the previous ones."

A creative team, headed by photographer Tom Epperson and wardrobe stylist Jennie Epperson, collaborated with designers Michi Calica-Sotto, Katrina Gouldbourn, Pia Reagala-Hebron, Tippi Ocampo, Richard Papa and Dita Sandico-Ong to transform Jolina for her newest album.

Jolina, whose teenybopper image has been a big strategic success, says she is not getting any younger and has decided to shift to a "more mature image" as a singer and recording artist.

But the change is not drastic, the 23-year-old star notes. "I'm just keeping abreast with my fans."

She is especially proud of the songs in the new album, "Jolina Sings the Masters," because the collection "reflects the concerns and angst of people my age."

She sings the works of some of the country's most respected composers, like Freddie Aguilar ("Bulung Bulungan"), Vehnee Saturno ("Kahit 'Di Mo Pansin," "Langit ang Ibigin Ka" and "Ako'y Umibig"), George Canseco ("Paano Kita Mapapasalamatan"), Ryan Cayabyab (Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang"), Jose Marie Chan ("What is a Heart");

Willy Cruz ("Iyong Iyo Pa Rin"), Trina Belamide ("No Letting Go"), Baby Gil ("Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan"), Danny Tan ("Ang Tangi Kong Mahal"), Freddie Saturno ("Higit Ba Siya Sa Akin"), Robert Moore ("Million Miles Away") and David Pomeranz ("Teach Me to Fly" and "How Will I Know").

The new album was launched at the Abelardo Hall of the UP College of Music in Diliman, Quezon City, the same place where Jolina had her first recital as a member of Ryan Cayabyab's 14K group.

Last month, Jolina transferred to GMA 7 after being an exclusive talent of its rival, ABS-CBN, for 12 years. The decision, she would admit later, was the hardest she has had to make so far.

Her non-exclusive contract with GMA 7 is on a per project or program basis. She is in the drama-comedy series, "Kahit Kailan," which airs at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Two Thursdays ago, Jolina had to be confined in a Makati hospital for three days for a throat infection. Her dad says Jolina got sick after performing in a jam-packed auditorium in Bulacan. He says stress and erratic changes in the weather must have been the cause of her sickness.

Jolina had to cancel several engagements because her physician, Dr. Jose David, ordered her to have a complete bed rest.

BACKLESS in a Richard Papa. Photography by Tom Epperson.

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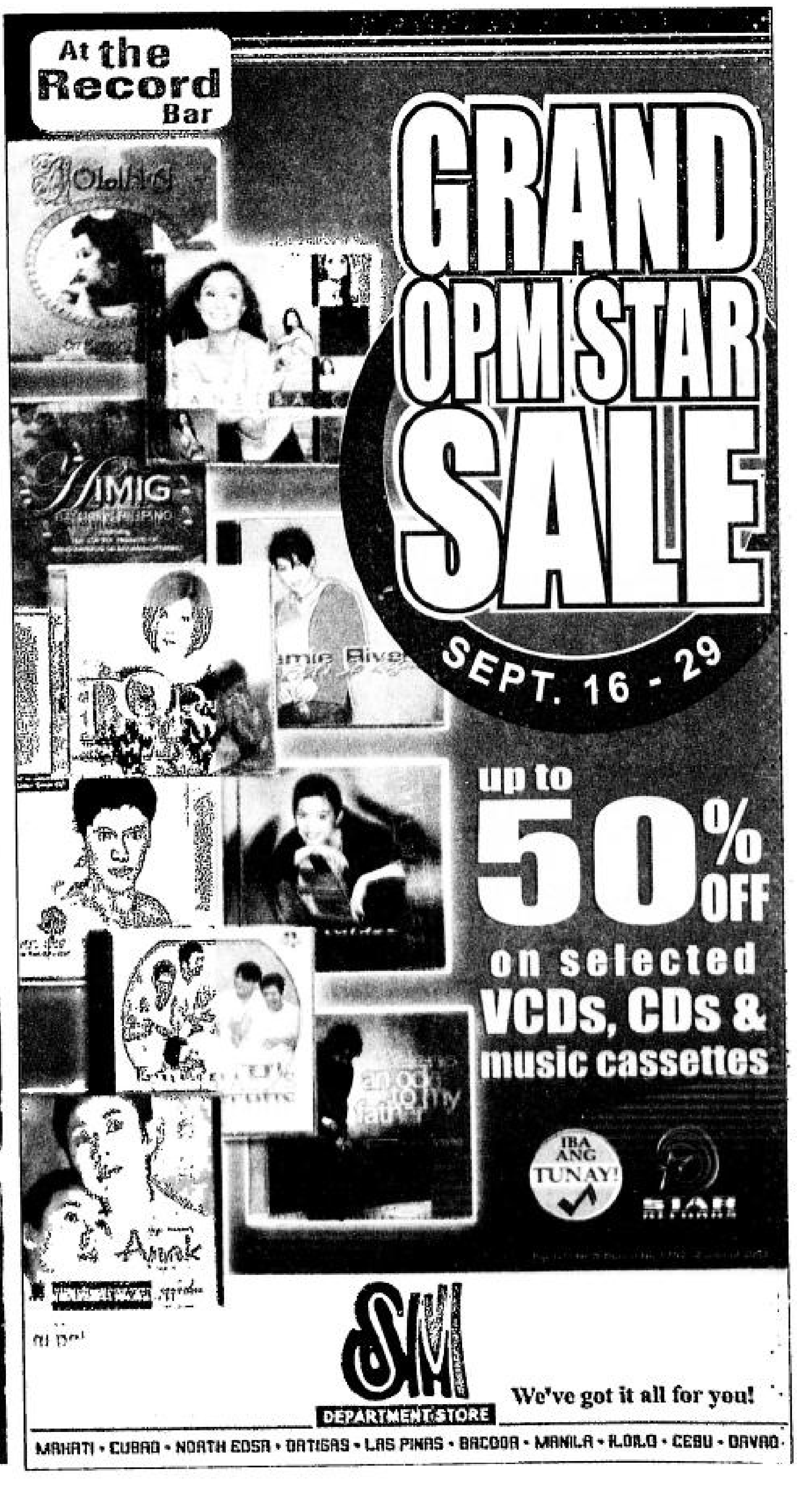

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From perdition to self-redemption

From page A28

derstanding of both the good and evil aspects of human nature. As Hawks' character shows, they aren't distinct from each other, but fused in occasionally and contradictory but ultimately instructive ways.

As we struggle to come to terms with these conflicting aspects, we discover what must be done to transform perdition into self-redemption.

Feedback

FROM **Cristina Ocampo-Ferrer** of Las Piñas City: "On Channel 7's 'Wish ko lang': Perhaps the show should be considered more as a tool of GMA-7 to arouse social awareness among viewers, not really to make the recipients enjoy the material things given by host **Bernadette Sembrano.**

"The dramatic presentation is really 'TV-ing-TV,' *ano*? But as I said, the concept seems to deliver the message of the station being a source of happiness, in a manner more artistic than 'Damayan' of **Rosa Rosal.** Now that there is also 'Willingly Yours,' image-building of the channels benefits a few, but the subconscious absorption of the public will surely have a tremendous effect on ratings later on . . .

"If Ms Sembrano would like to help the Dumagats of Sition Mabolo, Bar. Puray, Montalban, Rizal (now Rodriguez) and bring joy to the children there, **sasamahan ko pa siya doon**—21 rivers of knee-high water, but the feeling of being one with the Creator is just overwhelming! *Napakaganda ng kanilang talon doon.*

"I brought 17 doctors from the Philippine Heart Center last year and people who learned about my personal apostolate started sending clothes to our indigenous brothers there, even if I did not use any media instrument for the project. God bless. Education for God, family and country!"

UST Orchestra plays Mozart, Beethoven

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, together with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, will present the UST Symphony Orchestra in concert, under the baton of conductor Herminigildo Ranera. This will be held at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of the CCP tonight at 8 p.m.

Featured soloists are Frenvee Andra, bassoon; Ronan Ferrer, tenor; and Thea Perez, soprano. All three are alumni and currently faculty members of the UST Conservatory of Music who have recently completed further studies in music at the Elisabeth University in Hiroshima, Japan.

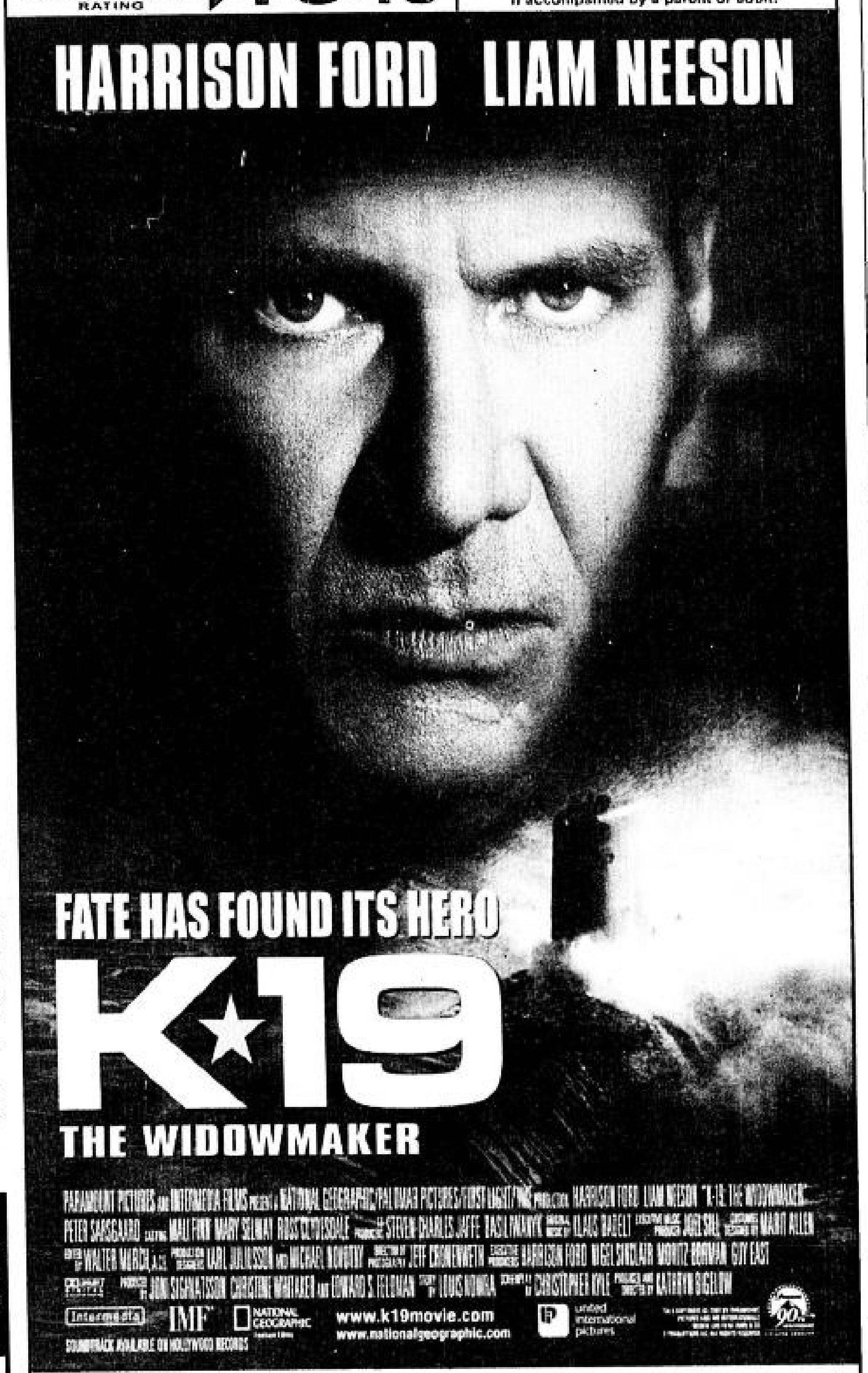
The UST Symphony Orchestra takes pride in being the oldest existing and actively performing all-student orchestra in the country today. With the support of the UST and the CCP, the orchestra has provided the appropriate venue and training ground for aspiring young and talented instrumentalists in developing their musical talent.

To be performed are the "Overture from the Barber of Seville" by Rossini, the "Concerto in Bb Major, K.V. 191 for Bassoon and Orchestra" by W.A. Mozart, "Come Scoglio Immoto Resta," an aria from the opera "Cost Fan Tutte," by W.A. Mozart; "Ecco Ridente in Cielo" from the Rossini opera "The Barber of Seville," and "Fuggi Crudele, Fuggi," a duet from the awe-inspiring opera "Don Giovanni," by W.A. Mozart. A highlight of the concert will be the performance of the multi-movement composition, "The Planets," by Gustav Holst.

Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office and at the UST Conservatory of Music office located at 5/F Education Building, UST, España, Manila. Call Vien Tabbu at 731-4022.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SUGAT / FERDINANDO
ODEON	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS / BIG FAT LIAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR-2	TUKAAK
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SPY KIDS - 2
B	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAK
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SFI DA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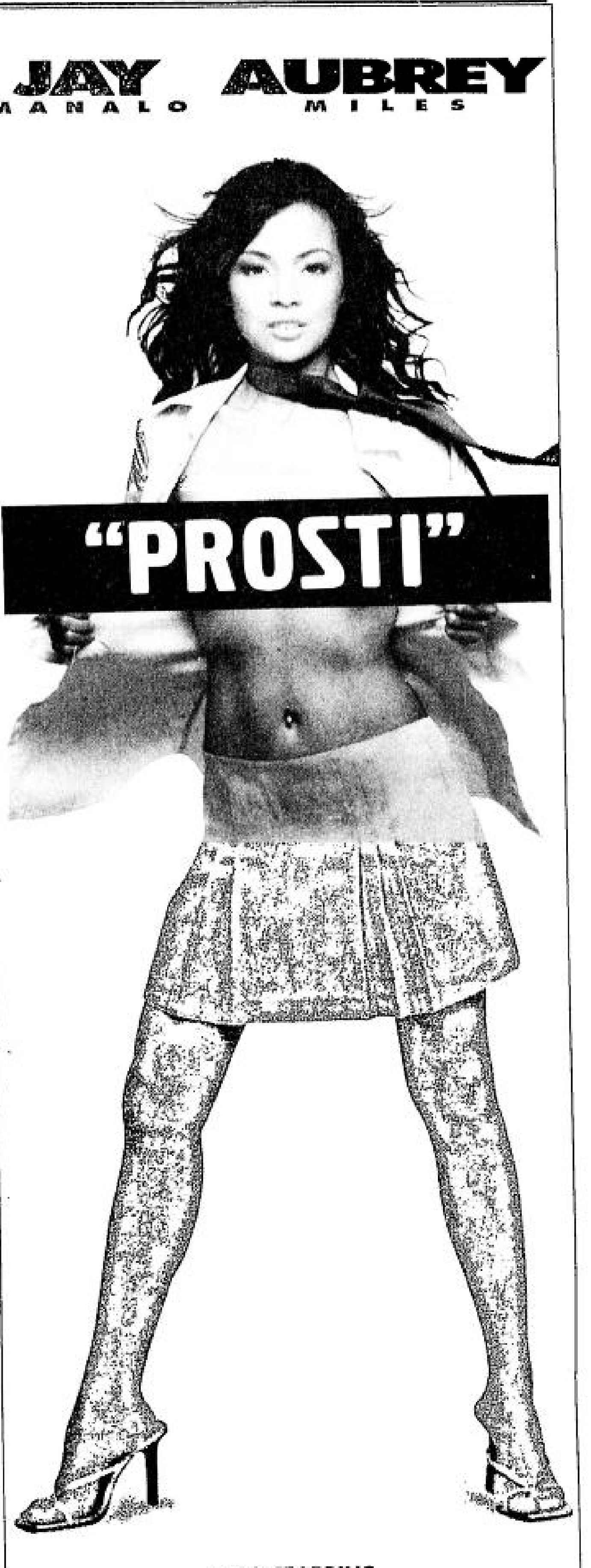
Sept.19 (Thu)		Sept.20 (Fri)	
Clean Sweep	2:00	The Policeman	11:30
Kippur	4:30	Don't Give a Damn	2:00
Growing Pains	7:00	Growing Pains	4:30
The Policeman	9:30	Total Love	7:00
		Yana's Friends	9:30
Sept.21 (Sat)		Sept.22 (Sun)	
Growing Pains	11:30	Total Love	11:30
Yana's Friends	2:00	The Policeman	2:00
Clean Sweep	4:30	Yana's Friends	4:30
Kippur	7:00	Don't Give a Damn	7:00
Clean Sweep	9:30	Clean Sweep	9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)		Sept. 24 (Tue.)		Sept.25 (Wed)	
Total Love	2:30	Growing Pains	2:30	Kippur	2:30
Don't Give a Damn	4:30	Yana's Friends	4:30	Don't Give a Damn	4:30
The Policeman	7:00	Clean Sweep	7:00	Total Love	7:00
Kippur	9:30	Don't Give A Damn	9:30	Yana's Friends	9:30

OPENS OCTOBER 2!
JAY MANALO AUBREY MILES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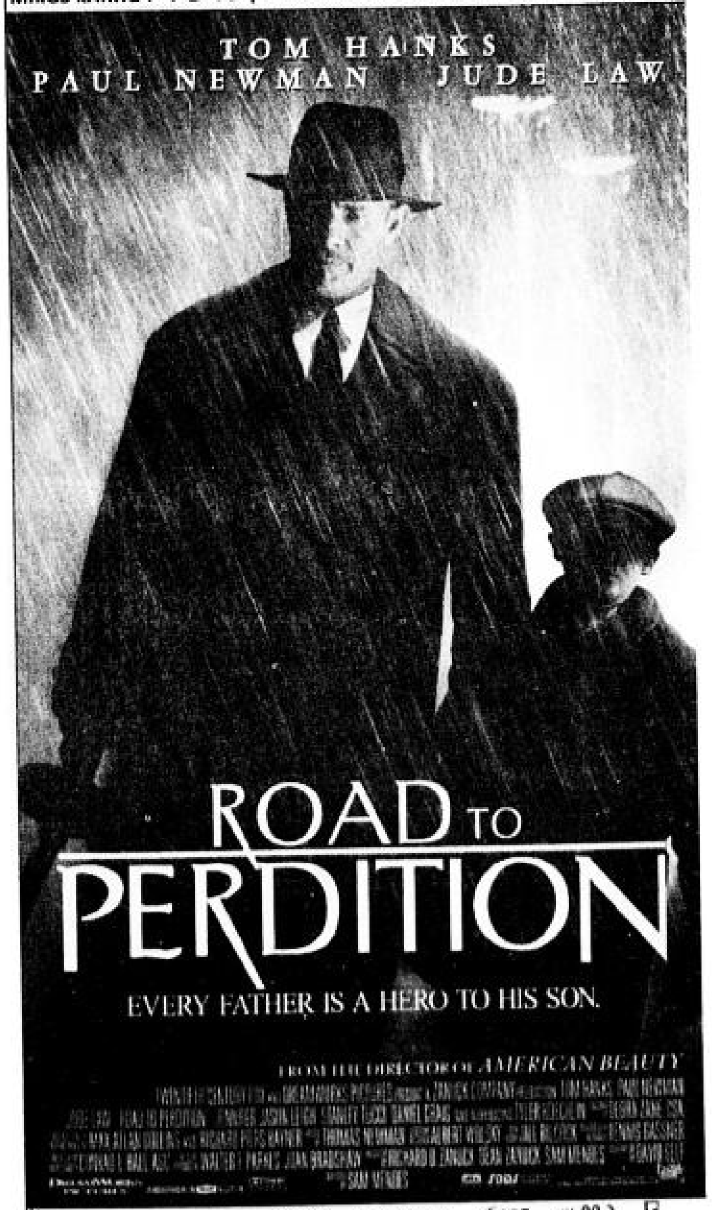
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

EMMY SIDELIGHTS

Precautions, 'penguins' and pregnancy

LOS ANGELES—Forget security for the celebrities at Sunday's Emmy Awards.

One of the most well-guarded people arriving on the red carpet was the guy carrying the envelope with the results.

Accountant Andy Sale had a silver briefcase handcuffed to his wrist and was flanked by several burly security guards.

Asked if any celebrities had accosted him to get an early look at the winners, he quipped, "They know better."

* * *

Peter Boyle, nominated for best supporting actor for the comedy "Everybody Loves Raymond," avoided much of the fashion pressure by wearing a tuxedo he bought off the rack.

Boyle also wore a bow tie decorated with penguins.

"My wife loves penguins," he said. "If this makes my wife happy, then it makes me happy."

* * *

In a strapless, low-cut gown, Kim Cattrall, who plays a sex kitten in "Sex and the City," showed off the suntan she got this summer while taking a break in filming.

Asked where she traveled, she shrugged her shoulders and said Long Island.

"My husband and I bought a lobster boat and are refurbishing it, so we spent the summer taking friends out," she said. "My husband was the captain, and I was his first mate."

Cattrall was nominated for best supporting actress in a comedy series.

* * *

Oprah Winfrey was distracted by screaming fans outside the Shrine Auditorium during a pre-show interview.

When she turned to look, she was surprised to discover the cheering was for Dr. Phil, a regular guest on her afternoon show whose growing popularity resulted in his own daytime program this fall.

"Look at what we have created," Winfrey laughed. "We were in Texas together, and nobody was screaming his name."

Winfrey received the inaugural Bob Hope Humanitarian Award during the show.

* * *

Ray Romano, who won the Emmy for best actor in a comedy series Sunday, was asked earlier whether he had never won previously for "Everybody Loves Raymond" because people think he's just playing himself.

"They think I can't act," Romano quipped. "I don't know. I don't care. I'm just glad to be here."

* * *

It could have been called the expectant mothers' red carpet.

There was actress Jane Kaczmarek, who is seven months pregnant and nominated for best actress in a comedy series for "Malcolm in the Middle," and comedian Wayne Brady's wife, Mandie, who is five months pregnant.

"Here's my accessory," Kaczmarek joked, patting her belly.

Brady, who has a new daytime show this fall, said he already was sending messages to his unborn child.

"Root for daddy," he said, bending down to repeat it to his wife's stomach. *AP*

OPRAH GETS "HOPE." Oprah Winfrey accepts the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON BERLE. Talk show host Larry King doused with powder during the comedy sketch.

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TGI FRIDAY'S TIMEZONE Witch Enchanted Kingdom

Calvin Millado in drag

From page A28

was "Rent," mounted by Atlantis Productions and directed by Bobby. Then he played Peter in another Atlantis Productions project, "Jesus Christ Superstar."

In "The Rocky Horror Show," Calvin has a kissing scene with his male costar Jay Españo, who plays Rocky.

"What could be more extreme than that?" Calvin says. "But Bobby told me Frank n' Furter is one of the most coveted male roles in musical theater. When my mom saw my publicity photos in drag, she didn't like them. But this is such a big challenge for me. I hope I can pull it off."

Aside from preparing for "The Rocky Horror Show," Calvin is anticipating a callback for "The Lion King," to be mounted by Walt Disney Productions in Sydney in October 2003.

Bobby says Calvin will also be in the cast of "Dreamgirls," to be staged in March 2003.

"I'm taking things a day at a time," Calvin says. "I don't want to expect too much because I might be disappointed. It's nicer that way. In anything that I do, that has always been my attitude. That way, you don't worry that much."

'Mobster Nights'

HAD a chat with **Sheila Romero**, owner of Azzurro-Spargo, who said the resto's SM Megamall branch will host a theme night every Thursday starting tomorrow.

Azzurro-Spargo will air episodes of the top-rating and award-winning TV series, "The Sopranos," every Thursday, 10 p.m., for "Mobster Nights."

"If there is 'Sex and the City' for girls, 'The Sopranos' will be for guys," said Sheila. "We want to develop a regular Thursday group which will come to the restaurant to watch the series."

Get hooked on Tony Soprano and his Mafia family as they deal with the everyday struggles of a powerful upper-middle class New Jersey mob clan.

James Galdolfini, who played **Julia Roberts'** kidnapper in "The Mexican," plays Tony Soprano.

Azzurro opened on the Megastrip last year, while Spargo started business last May.

Sheila's partners at the SM Megamall branch are erstwhile show biz couple **Hans Montenegro** and **Miriam Quiambao**. They will all be there tomorrow night to boost the launch of "Mobster Nights."

Hans used to be a regular customer of Azzurro at Glorietta 4 in Makati.

While watching "The Sopranos," diners can feast on Spargo's world barbecues. The restaurant also offers a wine-all-you-can promo. At the Megamall branch, it's P265 for standard wine selections and P365 for premium wine, from 3 to 7 p.m. and from 10 p.m. onwards.

"Mobster Nights" are supported by Johnny Walker Black, which is why it carries the theme, "Be Who You Want to Be in Black." Sheila said they will give away special prizes to the best in costume.

On Wednesdays, Azzurro-Spargo features guest DJs who play music from '70s to '90s starting 10 p.m.

Sheila got her keen business sense from her parents, who used to be partners of noted restaurateur **Rod Ongpauco** in the Bakahan at Manukan branches, with the famous Singing Cooks and Waiters.

Sheila says Azzurro has many regular show biz customers including **Pops Fernandez, Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda, Diether Ocampo, Mark Gil, Piolo Pascual** and **Martin Nievera.**

Personal

BELATED birthday greetings yesterday, Sept. 24, to Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair **Bong Revilla Jr.** and to our film reviewer **Ruben Cruz Jr.**

GANDOLFINI. Stars in "The Sopranos."

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ROAD TO PERDITION P13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50	SIMONE P13 1:10,3:15,5:20, 7:25,9:30	K-9: THE WIDOWMAKER P13 11:20,2:00,4:40, 7:25,10:10

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"...SUSPENSEFUL..." Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ ENOUGH
From fugitive to avenger!
J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'
Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).
But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."
Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.
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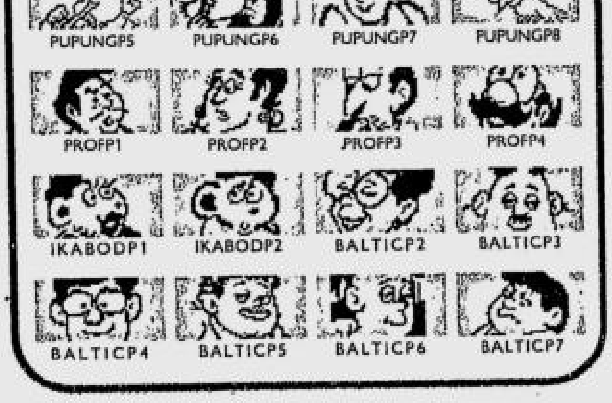
RINGTONES

TRACK	ARTIST	KEYWORD
• So Slow	Freestyle	SOSLOW
• This Time	Freestyle	THISTYM
• Before I Let You Go	Freestyle	B4ILETUGO
• Kahit Kailan	Southborder	KAHITKAILAN
• Love Of My Life	Southborder	LUVMYLYF
• Umaaraw, Umuulan	Rivermaya	UMAARAWUMUULAN
• Halaga	Parokya Ni Edgar	HALAGA
• Inuman Na	Parokya Ni Edgar	INUMANNA
• Okatokat	Parokya Ni Edgar	OKATOKAT
• Firewoman	Hungry Young Poets	FYRWOMAN
• Habang May Buhay	Wency Cornejo	HABANGMYBUHAY
• Beautiful Girl	Jose Mari Chan	BEAUTIFULGRL
• Please Be Careful With My Heart	Jose Mari Chan	PLSBCAREFUL
• Hanggang Ngayon	Regine Velasquez/ Ogie Alcasid	HANGGANGYON
• To Reach You	Regine Velasquez	TOREACHU
• Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw	Regine Velasquez	KAILANGNKOYIKW

PICTURE MESSAGES


PUPUNGP1
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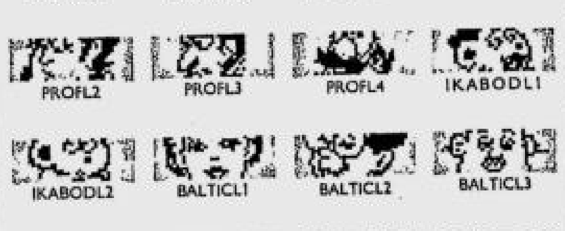
PUPUNGP8
PROFP1
PROFP2
PROFP3
PROFP4
IKABODP1
IKABODP2
BALTICP2
BALTICP3
BALTICP4
BALTICP5
BALTICP6
BALTICP7

LOGOS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PUPUNGL7
PROFL1
PROFL2
PROFL3
PROFL4
IKABODL1
IKABODL2
BALTICL1
BALTICL2
BALTICL3
BALTICL4
BALTICL5
BALTICL6
BALTICL7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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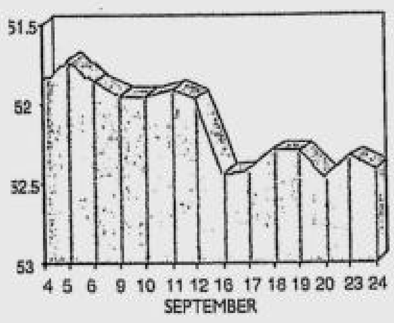
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.42= $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 24, 2002

¥123.44= $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 24, 2002

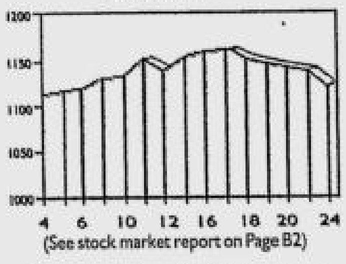
GOLD: $323.20-323.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 24, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end down 1.5%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended lower yesterday, in step with other global equities markets as the prospect of war in the Middle East threatened to stall the world economy's recovery, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 16.56 points, or 1.5 percent, at 1122.07, adding to Monday's 0.4 percent loss. The index has given up 3.5 percent since last Wednesday.

KGI Securities trader Lawrence de Leon said foreign selling in blue chips dominated yesterday's trading.

"The market's decline was brought about by the general weakness in global equities," De Leon said. "We've seen sharp declines in markets in Europe, the US and Asia."

He said persistent concerns over the possibility of a US-led war against Iraq was weighing on investor confidence not just domestically, but overseas as well.

SHARES/ B3

Sy submits new offer to finance Boni project

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of retail tycoon Henry Sy has submitted a separate proposal to property developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. involving a loan deal that could potentially disrupt buyout negotiations with Ayala Land Inc.

INQUIRER sources privy to the negotiations disclosed that Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank had offered to provide FBDC with an P800-million loan needed to develop the Bonifacio Ridge condominium project at the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

However, the SM group proposed that the Bonifacio Ridge financing be tied to a property deal involving the 4.1-hectare property near the Manila Golf Club. The SM group wanted to subject the property to a joint venture with the FBDC, and if FBDC fails to pay the loan, it would take over the entire stake, the sources said.

The new property being eyed by the SM group is on top of the commercial complex it plans to put up in the Fort Bonifacio retail center near the S&R supermarket.

The sources said BDO's proposal was running in conflict with the Ayala group's bid to take over the entire Fort Bonifacio property. ALI earlier confirmed it was in discussions with Metro Pacific Corp. and the Unilab group for property development opportunities in Fort Bonifacio.

"The Ayalas do not want to commit the Bonifacio Ridge property. It's okay for them if FBDC would get a financing deal but it's not okay for them to tie up with the SM group," one of the sources said.

The sources added that ALI, which was negotiating to take over the property either through the buyout of a controlling stake in BLC or the buyout of BLC's majority stake in FBDC itself, wanted to have full control of the remaining property in Fort Bonifacio.

The sources said that the Ayala group, for its part, was keen on bringing in foreign lender

SY/ B4

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo inspects the ICTSI freight station no. 1 and container yard in North Harbor, Manila, during a visit to the country's busiest port. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Prestige Cars Makati, Inc. 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City • Tel. Nos. 892-81-27 to 29 • 817-80-49 • Fax 816-73-25 **Wheels, Inc.** 222 E.Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City • Tel. Nos. 721-84-77 • 721-84-39 • 411-35-80 • Fax 727-63-37

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SMC maintains growth track

SAN Miguel Corp. yesterday said it maintained its growth track this year as it registered substantial gains in August.

It said operating income last month rose to P840 million, up 49 percent from the P562 million registered last year. This brought year-to-date income from operations to P7.6 billion, a 27-percent improvement from the P5.97 billion registered a year earlier.

SMC said consolidated net sales in the first eight months rose 18 percent to P87.29 billion from P73.93 billion in the same period last year. August net sales amounted to P11.09 billion from P10.95 billion from a year ago.

SMC continued to benefit from increased operational efficiencies and optimization of resources after several business acquisitions in 2001, including Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines. Inc. (CCBPI), Cosmos Bottling Corp. and Purefoods Corp.

Philippine beer operations' August sales, buoyed by a 15-percent gain in volume, rose 14 percent to P2.06 billion from P1.81 billion a year earlier. With volume up 4 percent in the year-to-date period, sales revenues reached P17.35 billion, a 5-percent gain from the 2001 level of P16.58 billion. Year-to-date operating income increased 10 percent to P3.305 billion from the P2.76 billion registered in the 2001 period.

Year-to-date operating income for CCBPI amounted to P1.59 billion, while San Miguel Packaging Products, another major contributor to the uptick in SMC's results, posted a 44-percent increase in its August operating income to P174 million from P121 million a year earlier.

SMC, founded in September 1890 as a single-plant, single-product venture, now has 89 production facilities in the Philippines and 12 abroad, and is the local market leader for beer, hard liquor, carbonated drinks, powdered juice, poultry, hotdogs, glass bottles and two-piece aluminum cans.

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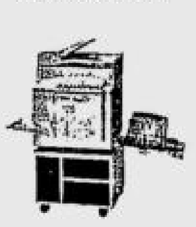
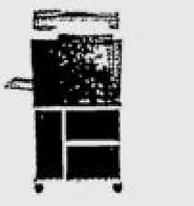
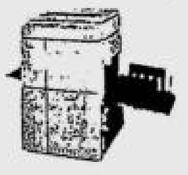


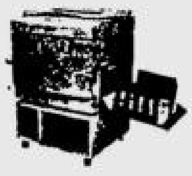
Duprinter DP21L/23S



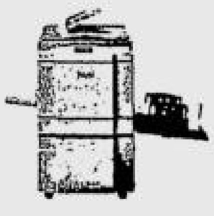
Duprinter DP22L/24S



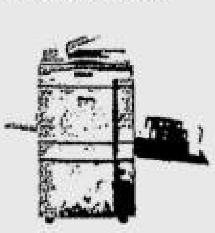
Duprinter DP31S/33S



Duprinter DP43S/63S



Duprinter DP330/340



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, September 24, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.5	68,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45	45.5	683,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	386,600
First E-Bank Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	52,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33	95,600
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	6,300
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	58,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	24,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	150	150	150	150	570
Manulife Financial Corp.	1080	1065	1080	1065	410
Sun Life Financial Serv.	830	850	830	850	1,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	490	485	485	11,920
Ipeople Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	450,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	4,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	29,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	287.5	287.5	282.5	282.5	36,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	22,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,400
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	30.5	31	666,300
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.58	2,022,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.44	27,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.6	411,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	1,840,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	140,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	32	30.5	32	142,900
RFM Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	80,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	0.9	0.9	60,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	740,700
San Miguel Corp. B	56	56	55.5	55.5	296,800
Universal Robina Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	36,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,160,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	210,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	405,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	200,000
Ionics Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	28,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	382,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	900,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	230,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	11,685,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	69,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	6,370,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.06	10,146,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	90,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	421,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,594,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Manila Mining Corp, B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0022	30,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	75,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	120,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,398,080	49,832,810.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	41,494,260	126,561,755.00
PRO	35,585,000	102,834,030.00
Mining	37,100,000	110,600.00
OIL	95,150,000	286,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	210,732,340	279,640,895.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	440.12	DOWN 8.45
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,546.65	DOWN 18.56
PRO	498.38	DOWN 9.12
Mining	1,129.05	UP 32.80
OIL	1.24	DOWN 0.07
All Shares Index	608.29	DOWN 3.97
Composite	1,122.07	DOWN 16.56

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 81; NO. OF TRADES: 1,470

DISCLOSURES

CANADA-based Advance Games Corp. granted PhilWeb Corp. an exclusive license for its online gaming software and platform for the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Taiwan.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. disclosed the sale of John Gokongwei's 469.7 million shares in the company at P1.38 per share to Lance Gokongwei.

* * *

IONICS Inc. clarified that it has reconsidered plans to expand in China following requirements by certain customers although this does not necessarily mean it shall abandon its plants in the Philippines.

* * *

SAN Miguel Properties Inc. announced the election of Jeronimo Kilayko as president, replacing Ramon Ang who continues to serve as chair and CEO. Also, stockholders of the company approved its merger with HOC Realty with SMPI as the surviving entity. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 24, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.023332	1.000000	52.4610
Japan	Yen	0.008248	0.008060	0.4228
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587393	1.551200	81.3775
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131201	0.128210	6.7260
Switzerland	Franc	0.682858	0.667289	35.0066
Canada	Dollar	0.646982	0.632231	33.1675
Singapore	Dollar	0.574744	0.561640	29.4642
Australia	Dollar	0.557310	0.544603	28.5704
Bahrain	Dinar	2.714624	2.652731	139.1649
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272866	0.266645	13.9885
Brunei	Dollar	0.573134	0.560067	29.3817
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000110	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023590	0.023052	1.2093
UAE	Dirham	0.278625	0.272272	14.2837
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.000826	0.0433
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.977200	51.2649
Argentina	Real	0.278995	0.274725	14.4123
Brazil	Real	0.295854	0.280899	14.7362
Denmark	Kroner	0.134545	0.131435	6.8952
India	Rupee	0.021057	0.020687	1.0853
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268017	0.263193	13.8074
Mexico	New Peso	0.099020	0.097542	5.1172
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479236	0.469307	24.6203
Norway	Kroner	0.135615	0.133195	6.9875
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017260	0.016949	0.8892
South Africa	Rand	0.096319	0.095993	5.0359
Sweden	Kroner	0.110738	0.107730	5.6516
Syria	Pound	0.023039	0.022624	1.1869
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029372	0.028835	1.5127
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000696	0.000685	0.0359

Gov't sees minimal impact of US-Iraq war on remittances

By Clarissa S. Batino

A CONFLICT in the Middle East would tend to bring local fuel prices up and add pressure on the peso but should not dampen the aggressive growth in dollar remittance from overseas Filipino workers.

"The impact of any conflict in the Middle East would largely depend on the scope and the duration. The wider and longer it is, the bigger the impact on oil prices and the peso," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in a phone interview with reporters.

Camacho is in London on a roadshow to convince investors and fund managers to put their money in the Philippines.

What could add pressure on the budget in relation to the growing tension between the United States and Iraq is the possible repatriation of OFWs from the Middle East, the finance chief said.

"We have prepared a contingency measure. The government may be in deficit but it is a matter of creating the funds when the need to bring home the OFWs arises," Camacho stressed.

He pointed out, however, that a war in the Middle East should not bring down the amount of dollars sent by OFWs to their families as the surge in foreign exchange remittance during the first half was largely brought by an increase in Filipinos getting higher paying jobs.

As of the first half, the dollar remittances reached $4.143 billion, up 43.2 percent compared to the first half of 2001. During the period, the number of Filipinos who left the country for employment abroad increased by 4.1 percent.

Camacho noted that the bulk of the remittances came from the United States where many Filipinos are employed as skilled workers like nurses, programmers, IT specialists, among others.

He also noted that, if ever, the number of Filipino workers to be directly affected by the conflict between the United States and Iraq was minimal. He said there were only 112 Filipinos in Iraq and 30,000 in Israel, an ally of the United States.

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Total ban on used car imports eyed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS is eyeing to push for a total import ban on used cars by scrapping the balikbayan program giving returning Filipinos the privilege to bring in one used car and withdrawing the import rights of Subic Freeport Zone locators.

Manila Rep. Harry Angping, chair of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, said only a total ban would ensure that used cars would not pose any unfair competition to the domestic automotive industry.

He said the government must make the hard decision to protect the local industry or else the local assemblers would pull out and relocate overseas.

Angping noted that Malacañang had merely ordered a halt to the sale of used vehicles from Subic to the local market without plugging other avenues to import used cars.

Angping said Congress was looking at discontinuing the vehicle importation program for balikbayans as well as amending the charter of the Subic Freeport in order to remove the privilege of locators to bring in used cars for their use within the zone.

He said the government did not have the resources to monitor the vehicles that were coming in through the balikbayan program or whether vehicles imported by Subic locators would stay within the former American naval base. Angping said only used trucks, buses and special purpose vehicles should be allowed to come into the country because they were in short supply locally.

The government announced last week the reforms in the Motor Vehicle Development Program, which included a ban on the sale of used and converted vehicles from Subic to the domestic market that local assemblers have been clamoring for the last two years.

The Department of Trade and Industry had estimated that 52,000 used vehicles from Subic were sold last year or nearly 70 percent of what the automotive industry sold in 2001. The DTI's estimate was based on the glaring difference between new vehicle sales and new registrations with the Land Transportation office last year.

Shares end down 1.5%

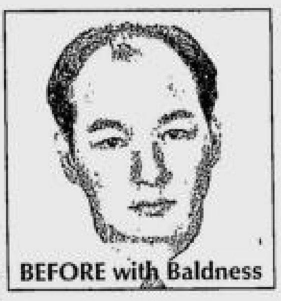
From page B1

"If the war on Iraq pushes through, there are indications to suggest that the recovery in the bigger global economies won't happen soon," he said. "For most exporting countries in Asia like the Philippines, our recovery will also be delayed."

Active stocks included San Miguel "B", which fell 50 centavos, or 0.9 percent, to P55.50.

Filinvest Land lost 3.6 percent to close at P1.06 even after Philippine Rating Services Corp. said Monday it was maintaining its rating on the outstanding P2-billion long-term commercial papers of the housing concern at PRS Aa, which is the second-highest rating for long-term debt papers.

AP



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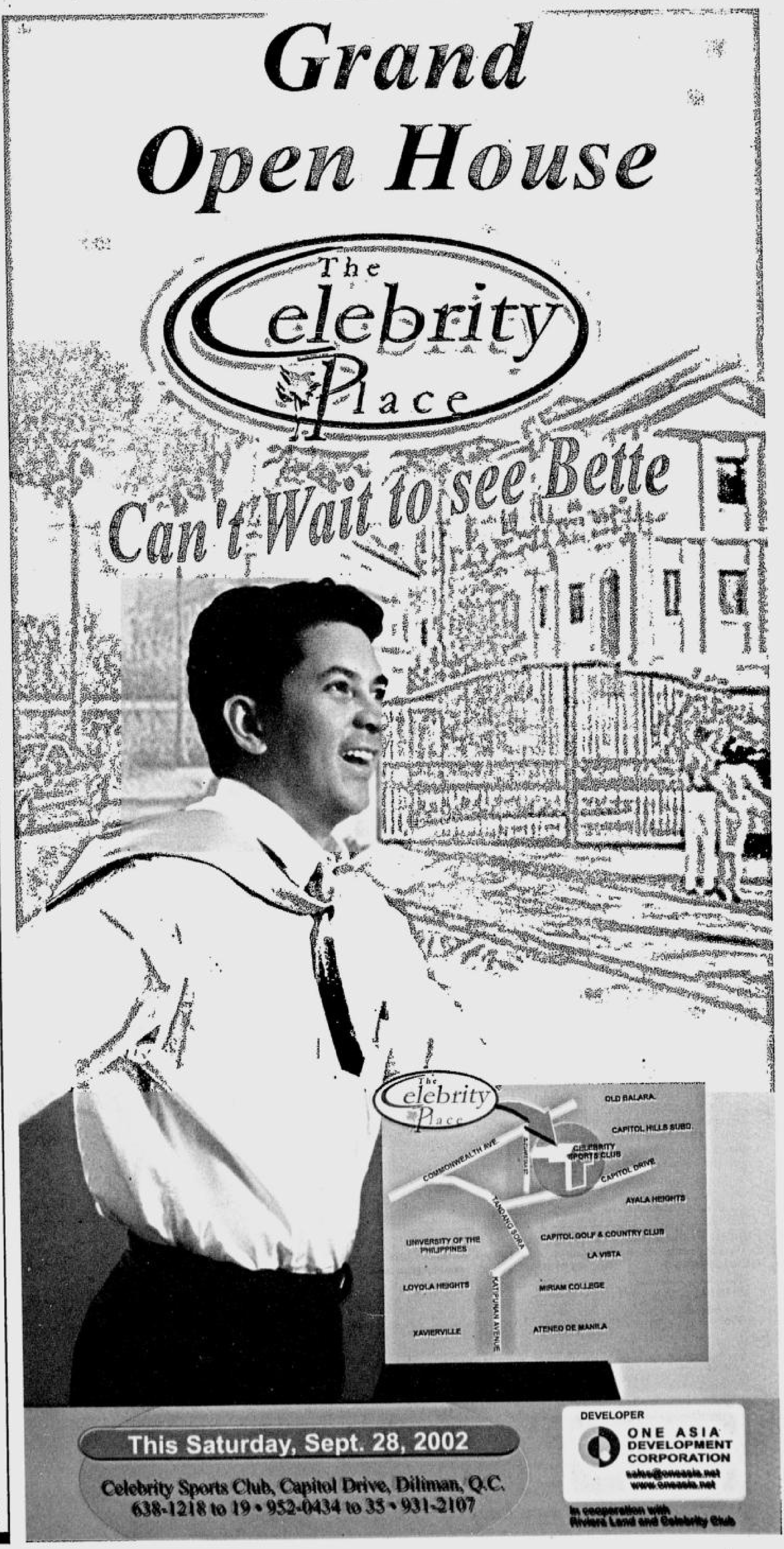

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Gov't revives proposal on gross income taxation

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has revived a plan to drop the current net income taxation and shift to a gross income system of collecting taxes from individuals and businesses as new estimates showed that changing the method of income taxation would bring in an additional P46.27 billion in revenues a year.

The new tax proposal was reportedly beneficial to salaried workers as it would substantially bring down the tax rate on individuals, but would be grossly disadvantageous to businesses.

The shift to a gross taxation was first brought up by President Macapagal in her first State of the Nation Address in July 2001. It was immediately adopted by the finance department and was sent to Congress, but legislators were reluctant to touch the proposal.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters in a teleconference yesterday that his department was supporting the proposal of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, head of the House ways and means committee, for a shift to gross income taxation.

Camacho, however, stressed that he was open to "some adjustments" in the system that would still allow some sectors to get deductions for their costs of business.

The bill filed by Ledesma proposed a reduction in the income tax for corporations, single proprietorships, and professionals to 15 percent but without any room for deductions on costs of businesses like rental, equipment, representation, and others.

The same bill recommended the exemption of workers with a monthly salary of P75,000 or below from paying income tax. The maximum rate of 32 percent would be slapped on those earning P650,000 and above a month.

Currently, businesses are asked to pay a 32-percent corporate income tax on net earnings or after legitimate costs of business have been deducted.

With the accommodations proposed by the bill for wage earners, the government estimated that the shift to the new tax policy would lead to losses of P14.9 billion from the individual taxpayers but would be offset by gains of about P61.17 billion from the corporate sector.

"I support the simplification of the tax system and removing the discretion on revenue collecting officers. But we have to recognize valid concerns of some sectors," Camacho said.

The Private Sector Advisory Group on Taxation led by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo had opposed the shift to a gross income taxation system, stressing that the new policy would discourage investments and would only provide new opportunities for companies to avoid taxes.

The group claimed that changing the income tax policy to a pure gross or modified gross system would only erode and not enhance revenues.

The advisory group estimated that with the shift, revenue collection might even decline by P46 billion. It doubted whether the shift would sufficiently broaden the tax base to offset the revenue losses from the lower tax rates.

"New tax rules provide opportunities for taxpayers to change their tax behavior. The possibilities are limitless. If indirect costs are disallowed, there are always opportunities to present them as direct costs. If fringe benefits are disallowed, there are also ways to present them as legitimate costs of business," said the group in a position paper.

RP GETS $100-M WORLD BANK LOAN
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho signs with World Bank Country Director for the Philippines Robert Vance Pulley a $100-million loan agreement earmarked for the improvement of basic services of the country through enhanced performance and governance in the field of education, health and social services.

RP-UAE air talks remain suspended

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE pleadings from nongovernment organizations and endorsements from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Transportation and Communications refused to reverse its earlier decision to postpone indefinitely air talks with the United Arab Emirates.

In a letter, Freedom to Fly Coalition president Mila Abad urged Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to intervene on behalf of the 1.2 million overseas Filipino workers based in the Middle East for increased frequency entitlements.

"In the Middle East, this acute shortage of flights is particularly critical on the Philippine-Dubai-Philippine route. Dubai is the landing point of 150,000 OFWs in the United Arab Emirates. Dubai is likewise the gateway of some one million OFWs bound fro the rest of Middle East and over 450,000 more for North Africa and Europe," she pointed out.

Acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson then endorsed Abad's letter to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza for appropriate action.

"With the coming Christmas season and the number of OFWs in Dubai who may wish to come home for the holidays, we suggest the request of Ms Abad be considered," he said.

But this letter went unheeded as the Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday formally sealed the indefinite suspension of the talks.

The DOTC heads the Philippine Air Panel that negotiates air service agreements with other countries. The DFA sits as vice chair of the panel.

Freedom to Fly as well as the Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino Inc. (Kakammpi) continued to appeal to the DOTC but the RP-UAE talks, originally slated for Sept. 25 and 26, would still not push through.

Civil Aeronautics Board vice chair Adelberto Yap admitted that air talks with other countries were really being shelved in favor of the air transport agreement renegotiation with the United States.

He reasoned that negotiations with Washington were very tricky so the Air Panel really had to focus a lot of its time and attention on preparing for these discussions.

Sy submits new…

From page B1

Deutsche Bank AG to take care of the financing requirements of Bonifacio Ridge, although the German bank's offer was much lower at P200 million. The loan will likewise be tied to real estate mortgages.

The sources said ALI would only consider a deal with MPC if it would be an all-or-nothing package.

MPC, the property unit of First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, is working on various property and refinancing deals to raise the $109 million needed to pay back debts to its parent firm that was secured by a 50.4-percent stake in BLC.

This stake in BLC, which in turn owns a majority stake in FBDC, was committed to a twin deal that sought to transfer control of First Pacific's property and telecommunication interests to the group of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

Under the deal, First Pacific's 24.47-percent interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and 50.4-percent indirect stake in BLC worth a combined $925 million will be transferred to a joint venture. The Gokongweis will then buy two-thirds of the venture.

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₱1.38-B funding for power exchange OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTER-agency Investment Coordination Committee has approved a P1.38 billion-funding package to put up the country's first power exchange.

The power sector deregulation act mandates the creation of a Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

WESM will allow free market forces to dictate the cost of electricity and give consumers a choice as to where to buy their power.

The ICC, which screens the projects eligible for official development assistance (ODA), yesterday said it approved the funding for the WESM's final market management system.

The system is one of five new projects worth P6.7 billion approved by the Cabinet-level ICC, whose lead agency is the National Economic and Development Authority.

The WESM project involves the development of power trading and pooling system and the provision of computer hardware to control and process transactions and functions associated with the wholesale spot market.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides that power-generating companies sell their electricity to the WESM.

The exchange in turn will bid out the power supply to distribution utilities through their brokers for eventual sale to retailers.

The WESM will operate like a stock exchange except that it will engage only in the daily buying and selling of electricity. It is targetted to start operations by July next year.

The ICC also approved a P2.9 billion package for the Luzon Transmission Line Upgrading Project I. This involves the upgrading of the transmission lines of the San Manuel substation to the Concepcion substation, the Concepcion substation to the Mexico Substation and the Mexico Tie Line.

The project also covers the replacement of power circuit breakers and accessories of various substations and the expansion of the Bauang, San Esteban and Dasmariñas substations.

The third project approved was the P1.5 billion Zamboanga West Coastal Road Project, involving the rehabilitation and reconstruction of about 79.65 kilometers of national road.

The road is expected to provide linkages that will facilitate transport and delivery of goods and services between provinces and the metropolis.

The two other projects approved by the ICC were:

- The P721 million Mindanao Substation Expansion Project which seeks to stabilize power supply in Mindanao; and,
- The P268 million technical assistance to enable the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System conduct a study on interim water supply sources.

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P3.83-M GRANT FOR WATER PROJECT
Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kojiro Takano and Metro Roxas Water District chair Carmen Andrade (standing 3rd and 4th from left) recently signed a P3.83-million grant under the Japan Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project for Olotayan Island Water Supply Project. With them are (seated from left) Yoko Konishi and Koniaki Miyake of the Embassy of Japan; Ichiro Yokota, Jica expert; Danilo Basilio, LWUA; (standing from left) Alden Ganhinhin, LWUA; Medardo Pestrano, MRWD GM; Yuki Tokudomu, Jica expert, and Rei Bernardo of LWUA.

DOTC backs BCDA-JPDC airport project in La Union

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) recently expressed full support for the planned conversion of the La Union air terminal from secondary domestic into an international airport by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) subsidiary John Hay-Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC).

In a letter to JPDC president Fortunato Abat, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza also confirmed the autonomy of JPDC in the development and management of the La Union airport.

Abat hailed Mendoza's move, saying the "free hand given to JPDC will hasten the transformation of the La Union airport into an important cog in the economic development of Northern Luzon."

This is in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's strategy of encouraging the development of transportation hubs in the countryside to decongest Metro Manila.

"The presence of this infrastructure in Northern Luzon is also expected to trigger the growth and expansion of industries and businesses which will create more jobs and livelihood," Abat said.

The airport forms part of the 231-hectare Poro Point Special Economic Zone and Freeport Zone, which also includes the La Union seaport.

With the DOTC support, JPDC is now set to pursue the development plan for the La Union airport. Abat said the agency was now completing an updated development framework that called for a five-phase program.

"Once the project is completed, the airport facilities will be ready for direct flights from some of our neighbors in Asia," Abat said. He added that the airport would not only service the requirements of the Poro Point Zone but would also support President Macapagal's program for expanded international tourism in Northern Philippines.

Abat said the development of the airport would be done with private sector participation.

GOINGS-ON

Franchising meet

THE 10TH Philippine International Franchising Conference opens today at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Organized by the Philippine Franchise Association, the conference will have as its resource speaker George Heenan, director of the Institute for Strategic Management, which is among the top five universities in the United States known for its entrepreneurship program. Heenan will speak on the trends and prospects in global franchising.

The two-day conference has adopted the "World of Opportunities."

The Banker's choice in RP

METROBANK recently bagged the coveted "Bank of the Year 2002" award given by the Banker magazine.

The 75-year-old, London-based publication of the Financial Times Group cited Metrobank as the most outstanding bank in the Philippines based on criteria that reflect the latest financial results and performance data. In awarding ceremonies held at the Dorchester Hotel in London, The Banker cited Metrobank's "focus on asset and capital quality which has provided it with a strong resource base and enabled it to increase profits in a tough market" as its edge over other candidates.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Sony sales leader at 28th BPI Appliance Madness

BY A WIDE margin, Sony Philippines Inc. maintained its overall sales leadership among all participants in the recent 28th BPI Appliance Madness Fair, keeping the top position it has carved out in seven successive BPI fairs since July 2000. During the latest 19-day fair, Sony Philippines, a majority-owned subsidiary of Sony Corp., registered a total of P14.2 million in sales, according to Ral Bruma, the company's promotions and communications head.

The next biggest total sales by another participant in the 28th BPI Madness Fair trailed Sony's total by almost P5 million.

Among its product categories, Sony's FD Trinitron Wega had the highest sales at P6.5 million, followed by personal video (Handycams, Cybershots and Mavicas) at P5:2 million, with the balance of P2.5 million accounted for by the Hi-Fi components, DVD and personal audio (Walkman and radio cassettes) categories. Bruma noted that sales for the CTV, personal video and DVD categories exceeded the company's expectations.

The BPI Fairs are considered to be a gauge of consumer preference trends in Metro Manila and industry sales performance overall. Bruma said Sony's performance in the BPI Fairs indicates that consumers continue to put their trust in the superior quality, technology, durability and value of Sony products. Consumers, he said, look for Sony as the gold standard in consumer electronics, which increasingly includes digital devices that can be networked together to enhance consumer lifestyles, whether at work or leisure. Bruma added that Sony's reputation as a brand and the performances of its products are major factors that have contributed to the company's sales, despite economic difficulties in the country and worldwide.

The BPI Appliance Madness Fairs make it possible for BPI cardholders to purchase appliances including consumer electronics at the best interest rates, and to pay on the most convenient terms. Therefore, the fair provides opportunities for consumers to purchase their dream appliance at low interest and longer payment terms.

DUNKIN' DONUTS
COFFEE on the GO!
DUNKIN'
Coffee

DUNKIN DONUTS OUTLET OPENING

Dunkin Donuts opened recently an outlet at the I-Mart convenience store at the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City. At the inaugural rites were (from left) Dunkin Donuts district consultant Mary Jane Regal-Chan, chainstore promotions officer Lourdes Cabigan, I-Mart officials Raymond Co, president, Keith Chan, vice president for administration and general services, Jose Ang Jr., vice president for marketing and Lorenzo Gaveria, vice president for operations.

DAVIES SHOOTOUT WINNER

DAVIES
PA REIN E

Charter Chemical and Coating Corp., manufacturer of the country's superior painting brands, recently awarded Rolando Masagca (right) a check worth P406,000 for making the jackpot shot of the PBA-Davies Paint Liquid-Tile Shootout. Masagca made his winning shot July 27 at the halftime show of the PBA 2nd Conference Commissioner's Cup game between Alaska and Ginebra at Ynares Center, Antipolo. He was the second individual to make the halfcourt jackpot shot. Present at the awarding of the check were John Lee Garcia (left), VP for marketing of Charter Chemical and Coating, Lee Albert Gan, VP-operations, and Roger Rayla, marketing manager.

Have BPI card, will shop at Ayala malls

NOW what could be more rewarding than owning a BPI card? Whether you have a BPI Express Cash, Express Credit and/or Express Teller card, you are assured of enjoying "fully-loaded" banking convenience. This time, the Bank of the Philippine Islands is giving convenience a rewarding face.

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For BPI credit, debit or prepaid cardholders, the discount/rebate privilege will be given by the participating Ayala Discount Plus (ADP) merchant upon usage of the Express Cash, Express Credit and/or Express Teller cards.

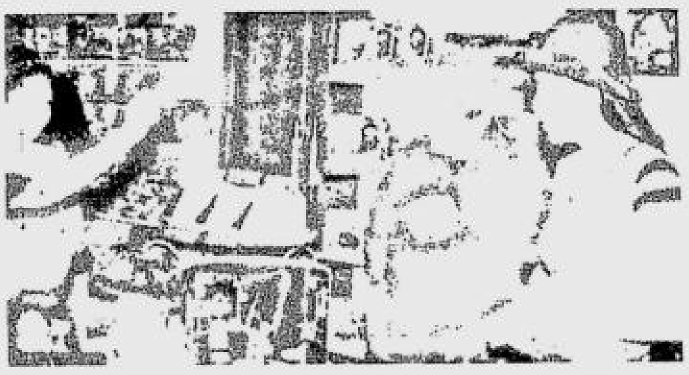
On top of the discount/rebate privilege is a loyalty rewards program whereby any purchase done at a participating Ayala Mall merchant and paid for via the Express Cash or Express Credit will automatically earn rewards points. An ADP Rewards Points Balance Inquiry Receipt will be provided by the ADP merchants or at any of the ADP booths.

And for all you Express Credit cardholders, you also stand to earn ADP points on top of your points earned from any ongoing Frequent User Privileges program.

When you've earned enough rewards points, you can exchange these for gift certificates from any of the participating merchants. Simply present your BPI card to the ADP booth personnel, who will do an ADP rewards points inquiry on the POS terminal. Redeem those rewards points at the ADP booths of Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu.

So for those of you with BPI cards, grab every chance to shop at the Ayala Malls and be rewarded.

And for those still without a BPI card, rush to the nearest BPI or BPI Family Bank branch. BPI has a wide range of card products – from credit, debit or prepaid – that is perfect for your needs.



BAN KEE 2002-2003 TOY LINES LAUNCH

The collection of toy items for 2002-2003 of Ban Kee Trading Inc. was launched during a successful trade show sponsored by the company for a select group of retailers and distributors at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel at Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The annual event showcased all kinds of quality toy products from best-selling brands such as Tomy, Mattel, Bandai, Takara, Activity Works, Bakuso Robo, Boppin Rockers, Crush Gear, Uno Games, Gundam, Hello Kitty, Marvin's Magic, Micro Pets, Pop Dreamers, Road Rats and Shoe Fairies. Marc Logan of ABS-CBN (center) is shown listening as Rhea Nerza (left) and Helen Fetalvero of Ban Kee Trading explain the features of new toy models at the Bratz and Boppin Rockers section.

Product FILES

MinuteShine, instant shoe shine whenever, wherever

SO THERE you are, walking briskly to your 10 a.m. "black tie" appointment. Before you step into the conference room, you do a last-minute check—hair is neat, tie is impeccable, shirt is neatly ironed, pants are straight, and your shoe is dusty.

Wait a minute. Did the dust of Edsa just take the glitter out of your black leather shoes?

Minute Shine

There's a savior in sight. And it comes by the name of the MinuteShine automatic shoe polishing system. For the first time in the Philippines, there is now a convenient stop for all weary and dusty shoes, and it only takes a minute for them to look brand new. The MinuteShine is a coin-driven machine that cleans and polishes any and every color of leather shoes with a shoe polish liquid and light feathery brushes to give your shoes a shiny, refreshing look. Very much like a vending machine, the MinuteShine dispenses liquid polish in a jiffy and has a built-in timer that automatically cuts off the motor after 1 minute of polish.

It has been already widely used in the United States and in Europe. It is used not only in shopping malls and buildings, but also as standard fixtures in airports or five-star hotels. Some executive suites in posh hotels even provide smaller versions of the shoe polish machines in every room.

The best part of the deal is that for only P5 per minute, the MinuteShine is the most affordable and reasonable shoe polish deal in town.

The MinuteShine will be featured in the 10th Philippine International Franchising Show and Exposition at the World Trade Center from today until Sept. 28. For more information on the MinuteShine, call 732-1341 and let Ideas@Work teach you how to be your own boss.

Karne Norte beefs up processed meat industry

SALES of pre-sauteed corned beef, more popularly known as Karne Norte, has fueled the growth of the country's processed meat industry.

A study conducted by meat processors showed that Karne Norte variant grew by 34 percent share of the corned beef category during the first half of 2002, from 18 percent in the same period last year.

Jonathan Bendicion, marketing manager of Foodsphere Inc., said that the bigger chunk of the estimated P6-billion enterprise is still maintained by the regular corned beef, at 66 percent volume share.

The same study indicated that the corned beef business grew by 15 percent during the first half of this year. It also showed that category sales was stagnant from 1999 to mid 2001.

Foodsphere is among the 33 companies involved in meat canning with its CDO brand competing with over 65 brands in the market.

Meat processors noted that the phenomenal growth of Karne Norte could be attributed to the liberalized importation of beef used as raw materials and the massive effort of brand owners in promoting the category.

It was in the mid '90's that the industry started sourcing out raw materials due to the limited supply from the local farmers. Last year the industry imported some 150,000 metric tons of manufacturing grade meat products, about 50 percent of which went into corned beef products.

Foodsphere, a multi-awarded firm in the agribusiness sector and a member of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc., ventured into meat canning in 1998 and has made great strides in developing the product category. This resulted to better access and increased share of the market for CDO.

The success of its canned meat operation, according to Bendicion, depends largely on the company's familiarity with the broad C market, having served this segment for 27 years with fresh processed meat products.

"To excite this market segment with canned meats, we pioneered in the 100g pack offering an honest-to-goodness Karne Norte at an affordable price of P10. It was a big success," said Bendicion, pointing out that the product has created loyal customers owing to its affordability, pleasing aroma, and ready-to-serve formulation.

"The product's key differentiator, though, is the scent exuding every time you open a Karne Norte can as captured in the campaign battlecry "Sarap Gisadong Nalalanghap," said Bendicion.

HOUSING EXPO 2002 OPENING

The Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc. (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Convention (HUDCC) recently launched one of the biggest real estate industry shows, dubbed Housing Expo 2002 (Pabahay at Buhay) at Megatrade Hall 2, level 5 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The expo featured an interactive spectacle highlighted by a business area where visitors can log their home requirements. Shown at the expo opening were (first row, from left) Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita of the lone district of Paranaque and past Creba EVP, Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., Creba national president, and Armando de Castro, HUDCC Undersecretary, cutting the ceremonial ribbon. At the second row, from left, are Techie P. Bautista, editor-in-chief of the Philippine Property Catalogue and Website, and Post Baccalaureate Program director of the Creba-DLSU Post-Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Purita R. Soliven, Creba EVP, Teresita C. Millan, Creba treasurer, Demetrio L. Posadas, Creba Foundation president and Editha L. Manansala, Creba VP-internal affairs.

RJ100 LATEST, GREATEST AT 1

RJ100 will hold a cocktail concert at the Edsa Shagrila Hotel to celebrate its first year of the Latest and Greatest Program Format, and 39 years of broadcasting. It has been a year since music lovers have been enjoying Yammi, or the Young Adult Music Mix of the latest and greatest songs heard nationwide on RJ100.3 Manila, 100.3 Cebu, 100.3 Davao, 88.5 Cagayan de Oro, 96.5 Tuguegarao, 91.1 Baguio, 98.3 Iloilo, and 99.9 Bacolod. RJ100 celebrates with a cocktail concert featuring Side A (members shown above), Jaya, Freestyle, Malik, Jose Mari Chan, Hotdog, RJ and Friends, Pido and Take One, and other surprise guests on Sept. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.

IMF says risks of recession remains small

WASHINGTON—The economic risks facing the global economy have increased in recent weeks but the likelihood of a new recession remains small, the head of the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler said it was important that the United States be careful to guard against the return of huge government budget deficits and that Europe and Japan more forcefully address their long-standing economic problems.

"Risks to the global economic outlook today are clearly tilted more to the downside than they were a few months ago," Koehler said in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations.

In his litany of rising threats, Koehler mentioned "continuing fallout from the collapse of the equity price bubble and corporate scandals, difficulties in some emerging market economies, regional political tensions and volatility in world oil prices."

Despite all the new uncertainty, Koehler said, "We do still expect that the recovery will continue."

The United States is currently struggling to emerge from its first recession in a decade, with this summer's steep plunge on Wall Street keeping businesses uncertain about hiring back workers laid off in last year's downturn.

But Koehler played down concerns about a possible double-dip recession in the world's largest economy, saying, "The probability of the United States sliding back into recession in our view is not high."

Koehler previewed the upcoming annual meetings of the 184-nation IMF and its sister lending institution, the World Bank, which will be held Sept. 28-29 in Washington.

The IMF recently approved a record dlrs 30 billion loan to Brazil to bolster market confidence that the country will not follow Argentina, which in December suffered the biggest default on government debt in history.

The IMF is still in negotiations with Argentina to provide new loans; it is possible an agreement could be reached before or during the meetings. However, officials in the IMF and the administration of US President George W. Bush insist that no new loans will be provided until Argentina develops a credible plan to emerge from the worst economic crisis in its history.

The administration announced Thursday that Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill will serve as host for a meeting of finance ministers from the Western Hemisphere on the morning of Sept. 27, with the financial market turmoil in Argentina and its Latin American neighbors at the top of the agenda.

"This meeting will give us an opportunity to discuss recent economic developments and the policy responses needed to increase economic growth and improve financial stability," O'Neill said in a statement.

Authorities have drastically scaled back from the normal weeklong meetings of the IMF and World Bank to hold down soaring security costs to deal with the thousands of demonstrators who are expected.

The institutions have retooled their recent meetings in an effort to be more responsive to concerns raised by anti-globalization demonstrators. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the world's economic powers have also sought to intensify their efforts to attack global poverty, seen as a breeding ground for terrorism.

The Bush administration has pledged to double US foreign aid over the next several years as part of an initiative to increase support to poor nations following free-market economic policies, but the new assistance will be tied to measurable results.

Koehler said he believed that a consensus was developing on this issue.

"The people of the world need more globalization, not less," Koehler said. "But it is also clear that we need to work harder to make globalization more inclusive and seek a better balancing of risks and benefits."

Koehler said that during this period of economic weakness, the United States must follow the right policies to "beware of falling back into chronic public-sector deficits."

Both Europe and Japan have to be "more serious about accelerating structural reforms," he said.

AP

Daewoo execs face lawsuits

SEOUL—Former and current executives of the now-defunct Daewoo Group as well as accountants face lawsuits for running up huge losses at five units, the South Korean agency bankrolling financial sector reforms said on Tuesday.

A total of 49 former and current officials of five Daewoo Group companies were responsible for 4.3 trillion won ($3.52 billion) of losses and 35 accountants incurred 2.8 trillion won of losses, the Korea Deposit Insurance Company (KDIC) said in a statement faxed to Reuters.

The agency said the losses were made through irregular bookkeeping and unfair trading between group units.

"We've asked the related companies and creditors to file lawsuits against them for damages," the KDIC said, after completing investigations into 16 ailing companies including former Daewoo units.

The Daewoo Group, which was once the second biggest conglomerate in South Korea, went bankrupt in 1999 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis. Daewoo's 12 units have been rescued by creditors and are now under a debt-restructuring programme.

The KDIC said it was still investigating eight other companies, including bankrupt builder Dong-A Engineering and Construction, parcel delivery firm Korea Express and snack maker Haitai Confectionery.

Reuters

Confusion stall use of alternative fuel cars

WEST SACRAMENTO, California—In the parking lot of a building squeezed between Interstate 80 and the Sacramento River, Kota Manabe did something at once as elemental as it was revolutionary: he topped off the tank of a sport utility vehicle.

The only suggestions that anything was out of the ordinary were the flame-retardant suit the Toyota engineer wore and the fuel he pumped into the Highlander: pure hydrogen.

"Basically, it's just like refueling at a normal station," fellow engineer Kyo Hattori said.

Almost.

While hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe, as an automotive fuel it's about as commonplace as moon travel. There are only two hydrogen filling stations in the entire state. *AP*

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FACULTY

PROF. TOMAS B. LOPEZ, JR.
2001 Philippine Marketing Association's AGORA Awardee for Achievement in Marketing Education

Prof. Lopez is a core faculty mentor in the Master in Management Program of the Institute. He teaches marketing (enterprise and development management), and is the Institute guru of Services Marketing and the emerging field of One-to-One Marketing. His areas of specialization include social marketing, development communication, corporate social responsibility, entrepreneurship, strategic management, and information technology.

PROF. EDUARDO L. ROBERTO
Coca-Cola Foundation Professor in International Marketing

Prof. Roberto is on the Institute's research faculty and was formerly a core faculty member of the Master in Business Management Program. Prior to this, he used to teach at the Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and at the Euro-Asia Centre of INSEAD. Prof. Roberto's areas of specialization include basic marketing, marketing research, social marketing, social marketing research, and consumer behavior. He is a recipient of the Philippine Marketing Association's AGORA Award for Achievement in Marketing Education in 1983.

PROF. JOSE JESUS F. ROCES

Prof. Roces is a member of the core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL) of the Institute. His areas of specialization include marketing, finance and human resource development (with particular focus on strategic marketing), e-marketing, and CRM. Prof. Roces is the 2nd vice president of the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF) where he also sits as board member since 1996 and the director for International Affairs of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA).

PROF. EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Director, AIM Health Care Management Program
Jaime V. Ongpin Professor in Public Finance

Prof. Leyco has worked in the health care sector as a public finance specialist for projects of the Department of Health. He was consultant to local government units on credit issues in municipal bond financing. Prof. Leyco was Medicare Program Director at the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation. He has also worked as health care revenue bond analyst at Standard and Poor's in New York. He is currently the Director of AIM's Health Care Management Program.

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Disney board braces to make major changes

LOS ANGELES—While pressure mounts for Walt Disney Co. to improve its profits, the entertainment company's board will meet to address some of the other issues raised by unhappy investors: the make-up of the board itself and the accountability of chief executive Michael Eisner.

At Tuesday's meeting, the board is expected to discuss a major reorganization plan intended to shrink its size and strengthen the influence of independent directors.

Disney's board has long been seen as too close to Eisner—who has run the company since 1984—and not willing to challenge management. Critics have lobbied for a smaller, more nimble board made up of directors less loyal to him and more responsive to shareholders.

While Eisner's job does not appear to be in immediate danger, he is being pressured by the board and investors to improve the company's performance. Disney's stock has been trading between $15 and $16 in recent weeks, below its 52-week high of $25.17.

Low ratings

The company has been plagued by the low ratings of its third-place ABC Television network and lagging attendance at its theme parks.

While the board will be dealing with significant concerns about the performance of the entertainment giant, it also meets at a time when the role of corporate boards is rapidly changing in the wake of high-profile corporate failures at Enron, Tyco and other companies.

"Corporate boards are evolving a lot right now, and they are becoming more aware of their responsibility to the shareholders," said Tom Wolzien, a media analyst for Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

Because of the increased scrutiny, Disney has been re-examining its corporate governance practices, starting in January when it announced it would no longer use its independent auditing firm to perform non audit-related consulting work.

Five-year plan

Eisner will present his budget and a five-year plan for the struggling company when the board meets Tuesday in Burbank, a person familiar with the agenda said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In addition, the board will discuss a corporate governance plan that would shrink the panel from its current 16 members. The plan being presented by Eisner, who also serves as chairman, would change the composition of key board committees by redefining which members can be considered independent under new guidelines proposed by the New York Stock Exchange.

In August, Disney revealed that three of its independent board members had grown children employed by the company with annual salaries ranging from $81,863 to $152,608. A fourth independent board member's wife is employed at Lifetime Entertainment Television, a cable network half-owned by Disney.

Under guidelines likely to be adopted by securities traders, only board members who have not worked for the company in the past five years can be considered to be independent. The guidelines also apply to family members.

Disney would have to change the composition of key committees under the guidelines, which would require that a board's nominating, compensation and audit committees be composed solely of independent directors.

Increased scrutiny

Disney is facing increased scrutiny from institutional investors, who met this past week in New York and plan to forward their concerns to Disney's board before Tuesday's meeting.

The group, led by Providence Capital, are expected to suggest, among other things, that Disney appoint more qualified independent members to the board.

The group also wants Disney to detail a management succession plan. Investors at the meeting were not clamoring to replace Eisner, according to Prudential Securities analyst Katherine Styponias, who attended the meeting. Rather, they want a clear plan outlining who will replace key management should vacancies arise.

Providence Capital's president Herbert Denton also wants Disney to split the office of chairman and chief executive, a goal he has pushed at other companies as well.

Denton's firm owns fewer than 2,000 shares. He would not say what other firms or how many shares were represented at the meeting, although analysts say about 55 to 60 people attended either in person or by phone.

"We view the recommendations that came out of this meeting as reasonable and could help significantly improve sentiment in the stock," Styponias wrote in a report on the meeting.

Earlier this month, Eisner, chief financial officer Thomas Staggs and others met with separately with investors and analysts in New York to outline their plans for a turnaround. *AP*

US economy indicator drops anew

NEW YORK —A key gauge of US economic activity fell for the third straight month in August, declining more than experts had predicted.

The New York-based Conference Board on Monday reported its Index of Leading Economic Indicators dropped 0.2 percent to 111.8, after falling a revised 0.1 percent in July. Analysts had expected an August decline of 0.1 percent.

The index measures where the overall US economy is headed in the next three to six months. It stood at 100 in 1996, its base year.

Seven of the 10 indicators that make up the leading index declined in August, including manufacturers' new orders for non-defense capital goods, building permits and the index of consumer expectations, the Conference Board said.

The US economy is "not getting any thrust from capital spending at this point," said Bill Barker, investment strategy consultant at RBC Dain Rauscher in Dallas.

Barker said consumer spending has held up surprisingly well in recent months, with purchases of big-ticket items such as cars and homes leading the way. His fear is that consumer confidence will erode as the stock market continues to sputter and that increased talk of war with Iraq will keep more people in front of their televisions instead of out shopping.

Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said the data showed the US "weak recovery could stall, especially if the consumer market starts to slow."

"There is now the threat of a slowdown," Goldstein added, "because unlike in June or July, the latest decline was widely diffused—only one of the 10 components had a significant positive contribution."

The drop helped push stocks lower, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down 153.67, or 1.9 percent, to 7,832.35. The Nasdaq composite index fell 32.20 points, or nearly 2.6 percent, to 1,188.89.

Contributing to the dour mood on Wall Street was the fact that economists do not expect Federal Reserve policy-makers to further cut interest rates when they meet Tuesday. The Federal Reserve has left short-term interest rates at 40-year lows this year.

The Conference Board's coincident index, which measures current economic activity, rose 0.1 percent in August to 115.0 The index of lagging indicators, which reflects changes that have already occurred, fell 0.1 percent last month to 100.7. *AP*

California offers a first: paid family leave

LOS ANGELES—Gov. Gray Davis signed a law Monday that makes California the first state to offer workers paid family leave.

The law—financed by an employee payroll tax—allows workers to take six weeks off to care for a newborn, a newly adopted child or ill family member. Employees will be eligible to receive 55 percent of their wages during their absence, up to a maximum of $728 a week.

"I don't want Californians to choose between being good parents and good employees," said Davis, a Democrat running for re-election in November.

Supporters hope the bill will serve as a nationwide model, while business groups denounced it as too costly for employers.

Federal law grants up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for workers at businesses with more than 50 employees.

The paid-leave law is the latest of several groundbreaking social and environmental laws passed in California this year. Earlier, California became the first state to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. On Sunday, Davis signed a bill to allow stem cell research in the state—a move that runs counter to the Bush administration's policy.

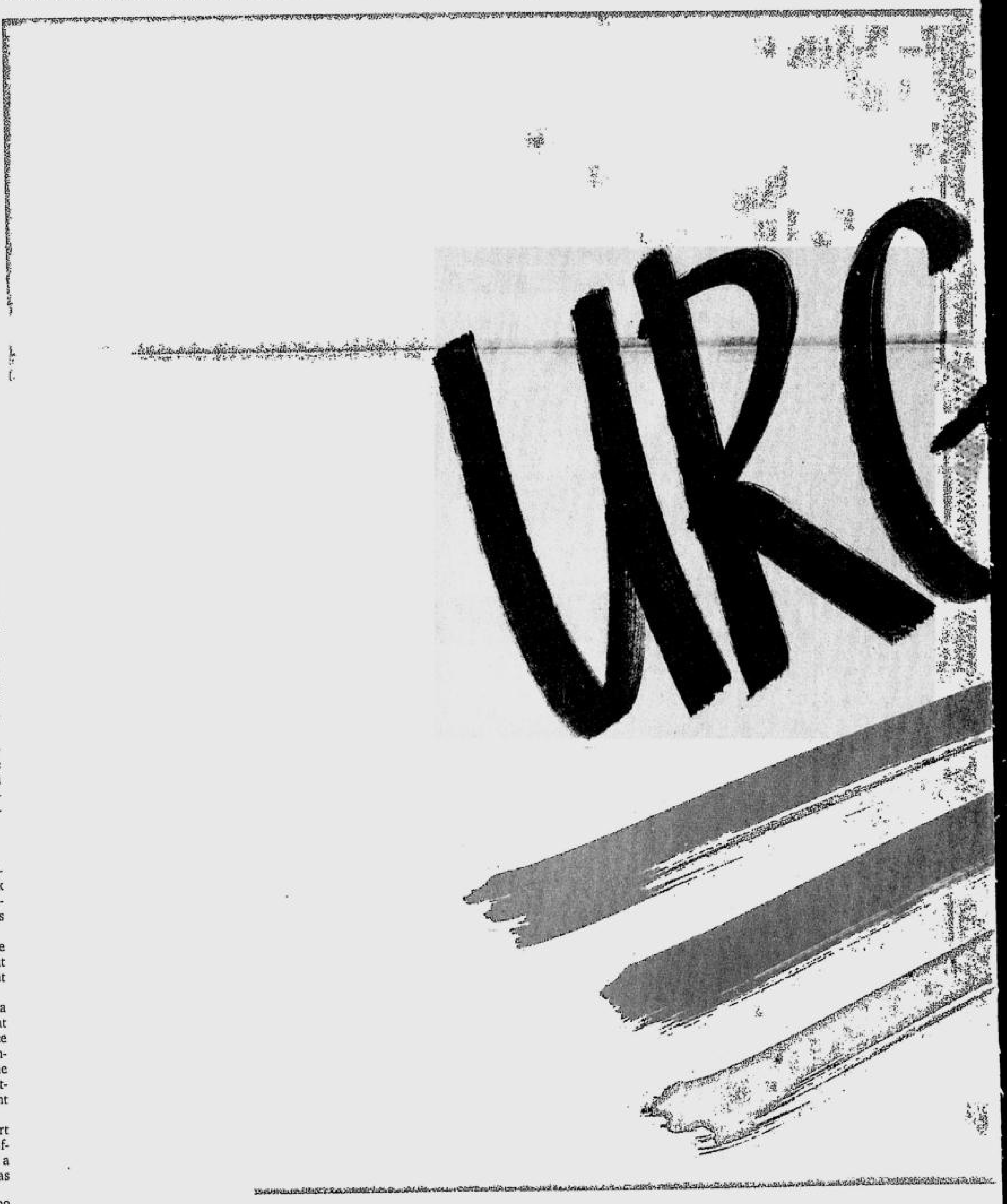
Under the new paid-leave program, workers will be allowed to start taking time off as of July 1, 2004.

The program will be funded entirely by employee payroll deductions, averaging about $27 a year and ranging up to $70 a year for those earning more than $72,000 annually.

About 13 million of California's 16 million workers will be eligible, State and local government employees contribute to a different plan.

Businesses with fewer than 50 employees are not required to hold a job for a worker who goes on paid family leave, according to the union AFL-CIO, which helped write the bill.

Twenty-seven other states, including Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Washington, have introduced similar legislation. *AP*



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Rising oil prices threaten Asian economies

SINGAPORE—Rising oil prices are threatening Asian economies by eating into the oil-importing region's current account surpluses and jeopardizing growth in the key export markets of Europe and the United States.

US investment house Lehman Brothers has lowered its growth forecast for Asia by half a percentage point next year, and trimmed this year's forecast, because it expects Brent oil to average about $30 a barrel for nine months.

"The higher import bill from the (forecast) $4 a barrel rise in oil prices will eat directly into the region's current account surpluses," Lehman Brothers regional economists Rob Subbaraman and Graham Parry wrote in a report.

Fears of a war against Iraq and forecasts of falling US

oil inventories drove Brent crude to a one-year high above $29.50 a barrel on Tuesday, a rise of almost 50 percent since the start of the year.

That threatens growth in Europe and the United States and consequently demand for Asia's exports, the driver of the region's upturn.

"What is going on in Asia at the moment has actually been a fairly powerful export-led recovery," said Michael Spencer, chief Asia economist at Deutsche Bank in Hong Kong.

"If Euroland and the US stop growing, and it appears they already sort of have, the oil price rises will just add to that, then all of what we're seeing in Asia will go into reverse." Apart from weaker global demand, Lehman Brothers also expects an impact on domestic consumption in Asia as higher oil import prices push up production costs for oil-dependent goods.

It now forecasts Asia ex-Japan to grow 5.5 percent in 2002, just down from an earlier forecast of 5.6 percent. There is a bigger impact in 2003, with the growth forecast lowered to 5.7 percent from 6.2 percent.

Already the rise in oil prices, and the fear they could go higher, has hit Asian currencies, with those not pegged at or near multi-month lows against the dollar this week. That adds further to the cost of importing dollar-priced oil.

The only good news for Asia is that there are counterbalancing factors that could limit the damage from a sustained oil price rise.

Deflation in parts of the region, high unemployment and competition from China means price rises are likely to be contained and the region will avoid the policy dilemma of stagflation—slow growth and rising inflation.

"Certainly with deflation being the more pressing concern in most economies, it would be very difficult for firms to pass on higher oil prices into prices of other goods," said Spencer.

"So that is not going to be something that is going to concern central banks at this point—with the exception perhaps of Korea." South Korea's economy is robust, but a property price boom had authorities worried about inflation even before the oil price rise. The central bank raised rates in May, and is widely expected to lift them again before the end of the year.

Research by UBS Warburg—which does not expect oil prices to stay high—found a sustained $5 a barrel rise would cut almost $3 billion dollars from Korea's current account. Korea's current account surplus for the first half of 2002 was $3.57 billion.

UBS also found that Korea was the one Asian economy strong enough for producers to pass higher oil costs onto consumers.

But Korea is also heavily reliant on oil imports, and Lehmans' largest growth downgrade was to cut its 2003 forecast for the country by 0.8 percentage point to 5.2 percent. There are two countries in the region which would benefit from an oil price rise, net exporters Indonesia and Malaysia.

A $1 rise in the price of a barrel of Brent crude increases Indonesia's oil and gas export revenues by about $220 million a year.

But for Indonesia, Asia's only Opec member, the benefits could be countered by fears about stability in the world's most populous Muslim country hurting its currency, the rupiah.

"The rupiah will gain from both a balance of payments and a budget perspective, but given the context in which the oil price rise is expected—war in the Middle East—a rise in security risks could outweigh the benefits of holding this currency," UBS Warburg currency strategist Bhanu Baweja said. *Reuters*

DaimlerChrysler to strengthen commercial vehicle business

BERLIN—DaimlerChrysler AG on Friday announced that it will ake stakes in commercial vehicles businesses being spun off by apan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp. nd South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co., a move intended to trengthen the German-American automaker's position on the growing Asian market.

DaimlerChrysler said it will buy a 43-percent stake of the Mitsubishi spin-off, to be called Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp., for some 760 million euros ($750 million). The company also will exercise an option to purchase a 50-percent share in the joint venture with Hyundai, a deal valued at around 400 million euros ($395 million).

DaimlerChrysler, the world's leading maker of commercial vehicles such as trucks and buses, already owns 37.3 percent of Mitsubishi Motors and 10 percent of Hyundai Motor.

It said the Mitsubishi deal should be completed early next year, by which time the Japanese manufacturer is expected to demerge its commercial vehicles division, and the Hyundai transaction by the end of 2002.

In a statement, DaimlerChrysler noted that 43 percent of commercial vehicles already are sold in Asia.

"Asia is the fastest growing market for commercial vehicles in the world, and is projected to account for over 50 percent of the world market in the next decade," it said. "The proposed investments will ensure that DaimlerChrysler's commercial vehicles division can leverage the potential growth of these key Asian markets for further growth."

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will own 42 percent of its joint venture with DaimlerChrysler, while other Mitsubishi Group companies will hold the remaining 15 percent. *Reuters*

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THE PULSE OF BUSINESS

Iraq not invited to international energy confab

OSAKA, Japan—As oil producers and consumers seek ways to stabilize the global energy market, one big name not on the guest list is Iraq.

Iraq straddles the world's second largest proven oil reserves but has been been unable to freely sell its crude since invading neighbor Kuwait in 1990, although it has sold limited amounts of oil under UN supervision.

With Washington hinting it may attack to try and remove President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqis are persona non grata at a global energy conference running thy.

Ily become unwelcome and too political to attend the meeting, a Japanese government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Iraqis were not invited two years ago when the previous International Energy Forum was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Oil prices have recently soared to around $30 per barrel, an uncomfortable level for Western consumers, and OPEC ministers blame the price spike on a "war premium" of several dollars built up by Washington's saber-rattling.

Meantime, Kuwait is developing an emergency plan to protect its oil fields in case an American attack on Iraq prompts a reprisal strike by the Iraqis, an official said Sunday.

"We have to make sure that production and marketing continue," said the acting Kuwait oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Al Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

The Kuwaitis have bad memories of 1991, when US-led coalition forces pushed the Iraqi military out of Kuwait and the retreating Iraqis sabotaged oil facilities and set numerous wells on fire.

The sheikh said Kuwait is "preparing for any scenario," including a possible chemical, biological or nuclear attack.

"We hope Iraq will act positively so there is no reason for war," he told reporters.

Iraq sought to defuse tensions this week by saying it would readmit the UN weapons inspectors, but Washington has branded the offer as a ploy to avoid stiff action by the U.N. Security Council. *AP*

National Steel Corp. names new CEO

MISHAWAKA, Indiana—A new chief executive is taking over at National Steel Corp. as the steelmaker tries to emerge from bankruptcy.

Mineo Shimura will replace Hisashi Tanaka, effective Friday, as chairman and chief executive. Tanaka, who took over at National in March 2001, is returning to Japan to become an executive officer of NKK, National's largest stockholder and Japan's second largest steel producer.

Shimura, who has served on National Steel's board of directors since 1997, will resign as president of various NKK affiliates, National Steel said.

"I am confident that the company is proceeding toward a successful resolution of its Chapter 11 (bankruptcy protection) proceeding," Shimura said.

In its March 6 bankruptcy filing, the company cited depressed steel prices, competition from imported steel and a weak overall US economy. The filing came one day after President George W. Bush announced hefty tariffs of up to 30 percent on a range of steel imports.

On Aug. 28, National Steel issued a statement saying it was working with advisers to prepare a reorganization plan "that will allow National Steel to emerge from Chapter 11 as quickly as possible." *AP*

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORENTINO R. MARTINEZ was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with waiver as per Doc 5232; Page 94; Book VII; Series of 2002 under Notary Public Wilhelmina F. Quimpo of QC
PDI-Sept. 11, 18 & 25. 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late MARCIAL F. CABUSO & REMIGIA B. CABUSO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc138, Page29, Book CCCLXXXII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Virginia A. Paragua of Q.C.
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This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen

Ateneo honors angels

HE ATENEO Grade School is gearing up or its annual fair and family day event om Sept. 26 to 28. The celebration honors he Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, hich the Ateneo Grade School has observed as a tradition for many decades. This year's celebration is titled "At Home With Angels: It's a Family A-Fair". The event features a Christmas Bazaar, exciting arnival rides and game booths as well as teresting stalls selling novelty, gifts, food and drinks. Every year, hundreds of families troop to the Ateneo Grade School to pay tribute to the guardian angels—God's messengers who are also our protectors. The proceeds of the fair will go to the renovation of the Ateneo Grade School Chapel Sanctuary and to various social action projects of the school.

14th post-graduate course

HE DEPARTMENT of Child Health of the ar Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation will host the 14th Post-Graduate Course on Sept. 25 and 26. This was jointly announced by department chair Dr. Reynaldo B. de Vega and program director Dr. Ma. Isabel Cruz-Urtula. The event will be held at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites along ADB Avenue, Pasig City. This year's theme "Sound, Sensible, Perceptive Pediatric Practice (S_2P_3)" aims to help refocus the physician's sight on total child health care in the face of the limitless surge of advances in medicine, technology, and communication. The scientific committee headed by Dr. Joselito Matheus has prepared a comprehensive program to cover diagnostic and management issues in pediatric specialties. Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Minette Mannag or Cristy Ong at 937-8286.

PNB's 20 years of ATM banking

NB SuperTeller was born Dec. 18, 1981. After a series of rigorous testing, it debuted Feb. 25, 1982. Thus, ATM banking was introduced in the country. To celebrate this pioneering venture on its 20th year of ATM banking, PNB is holding an ATM exhibit titled "A Show of ATM Force" at the PNB Financial Center along President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City until today, Sept. 5. Joining this event are Channel Solutions, NCR, IBM and Siemens. Meanwhile, PNB ranked first among 27 member banks in two categories used by Megalink in its monthly reports from July 201 to June 2002 to ensure strict adherence to the highest standards in ATM servicing. PNB ranked first with a high score of 99.08 percent in terms of controllable approval rate. This refers to the percentage rate that PNB successfully processes transactions of other banks' ATM cardholders. PNB also ranked first with a high 99.8 percent in terms of host availability of member-bank. This refers to the percentage rate the PNB successfully allows its cardholders to transact at other banks' ATMs.

Products, services at franchise expo

LOCAL and foreign franchisers will again have the opportunity to showcase their franchises and expand their business as the Philippine International Franchise Expo 202 opens at the World Trade Center, Manila from Sept. 25 to 28. Last year alone, the successful Franchise Asia drew 1300 visitors from 20 countries. The expo was a record-breaker, with 147 participating companies occupying 5,500 sq. m. showcasing local and international products and services. 245 business contracts were inked during the 3-day show. For inquiries, call Worldexco at 891-8638 or 83-7408.

Spa seminar by European trainers

A RIGID hands-on training seminar with trainers from Bellitas Ltd. United Kingdom is slated on Sept. 26, Thursday, at the ICI Technical Training Center, Unit G, MCY Building, 137 Roosevelt Avenue, SFDM Quezon City. For reservations call Cathy Bito or Remy Resma at 951-4010 to 11 or 93-9199 and 932-3545.

MMA media launches Marikina LAB

IT'S A BIG day on Sept. 28 as MMA Media Inc. officially launches LAB sa Pasko-Marikina. Trade exhibitors, locators, and part-time entrepreneurs from as far as Cebu, Bicol, the Ilocos provinces, Cagayan and Pangasinan are expected to attend the business opportunity meeting. The Saturday affair will be held at the Coral Ballroom of the Riverbend Hotel and Convention Center, Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina City at 2:30 p.m. LAB (Laruan, Aguinaldo at Bodabil) sa Pasko is an 11-day trade fair-cum-regional market encounter slated from Dec. 1 to 11. The event is one of the many Yuletide activities mapped by the city government in coordination with the private sector. LAB sa Pasko will be held at the 3,400-sq. m. Building H. For inquiries, call MMA Media at 997-3153, 94-0256, 997-9904 and 997-8423.

4-in-1 MEGA EVENT OPEN AT WORLD TRADE CENTER

KEY personalities in both the government and private sectors will open today. Four major trade shows in one mega show at the World Trade Center Metro Manila organized by IIR Exhibitions Philippines Inc.

These trade shows are Plastics Philippines 2002, the 7th International Plastic & Rubber Machinery Technology, Materials & Services Exhibition; Packaging Philippines 2002, the 7th International Packaging and Food Processing Equipment, Materials and Services Exhibition; and Phil Print 2002, the 5th International Machinery, Paper and Graphic Arts Equipment, Pre-Press Solutions, Accessories and Materials Exhibition and Conference; and Metalworking and Tools Philippines 2002 which will run until Sept. 28.

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon said that Plastics Philippines 2002 is an industry gathering that has become an important showcase for the past six years of the best tools and technological innovations in the plastic and rubber industry even as he is confident that visitors to the show will learn more about the trade and will use this most opportune time not only to update themselves but to establish networks with key industry players. Plastic Philippines 2002 is co-organized by the Philippines Plastics Industry Association Inc. (PPIA). Over 450 participants from local and foreign companies since 1995 have participated in Plastics Philippines from 20 countries.

Department of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor said that Packaging Philippines 2002 has provided stakeholders of the country's agro-fishery sector alternatives for practical, safe, appealing and cost-effective ways of processing and packaging various food products, thus minimizing post-harvest losses and at the same time ensuring safe and high quality standards. Secretary Montemayor said that the Department of Agriculture is extending its full support to his significant effort in promoting modern products and technologies geared towards sustaining national development and establishing the country's niche in the global market. Last year Packaging Philippines attracted more than 12,000 visitors. It has attracted over 500 companies for the past six years from 20 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom and the United States.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Mar Roxas said that Phil Print 2002 is an important event in the light of the emergence of the digital era which makes it imperative for the country's local printing and graphic arts industries to utilize and apply the latest technology graphic arts, sign-making, screen printing and digital imaging that can help local businessmen to consolidate the gains achieved in conventional printing and the continually evolving field of digital graphics arts.

"Indeed, as the global information economy becomes even more established, the infusion of cutting edge technologies and innovations into our local printing operations becomes even more vital if we are to upgrade and fortify their linkages with the global information network and maximize their impact on our population's need for information and educational materials," Roxas continued.

Roxas also cited the holding of Metalworking and Tools Philippines 2002 as a positive influence on the promotion of Philippine technological advancements in the metalworking industry towards boosting the sector's global competitiveness and promoting consumer welfare through wider product options.

GMA cites IIR Exhibitions

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently cited IIR Exhibitions Philippines Inc. (IIR) for spearheading the holding of international trade exhibitions in the country that has contributed greatly to propelling the Philippines into a high-tech industrial economy.

President Arroyo said that IIR's initiative in spearheading these events enables local and foreign business leaders to provide the local market with the latest technology and trends in the automotive, hardware, metal and woodworking industries and its collective effort to promote trade is truly beneficial and commendable.

IIR is behind the holding on Sept. 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila the following trade exhibitions – PACKAGING PHILIPPINES 2002, 7th International Packaging & Food Processing Machinery Equipment, Materials and Technology Exhibition; Phil Print 2002, 5th International Printing Machinery, Paper and Graphic Arts Equipment, Pre-Press Solutions, Accessories and Materials Exhibition; Plastics Philippines 2002, 7th International Plastics Machinery, Technology, Materials and Services Exhibition and Conference; Metalworking and Tools Philippines 2002, 6th International Machine Tools, Metalworking and Allied Industries Exhibition and Hardware and Tools Asia 2002, 2nd International Hardware Products, Handtools, Industrial Support Equipment and Technology, Do-It-Yourself Supplies, Specialty Materials and Accessories Exhibition.

President Arroyo cited IIR's dynamic role in stimulating economic activities as consistent with the government's commitment to its global goal of equitable development and economic stability. The cooperation that these events engender, Arroyo said, provides the synergy to create a vibrant business environment.

"I am grateful for private sector initiatives such as International exhibitions for reinforcing our national goals and policies to move forward. I therefore call in all key players of the industry to accelerate its development, to help us reshape the social landscape and to push national growth in this era of globalization," Arroyo said.

The IIR Group worldwide currently organizes trade events in the United States, United Kingdom, France, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Hong Kong, UAE, Egypt, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. In the Philippines, IIR through its trade exhibitions have been a force that has significantly moved the economy of the country with the tremendous volume of technology that have been transferred from many countries to the local industries. The value of sales of these technology, equipment and other supplies and materials from these exhibitions have been valued at more than $500 million. They are now responsible for producing quality products in the Philippines.

For more information contact IIR at 750-8588.

THE PREMIER 3-IN-1 MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY EVENT IN THE COUNTRY

PHIL PRINT 2002

PHILPRINT2002
5TH International Printing Machinery, Paper & Graphic Arts Equipment, Pre-press Solutions, Accessories & Materials Exhibition & Conference

PACKAGING PHILIPPINES 2002
7th International Packaging & Food Processing Equipment, Materials and Services Exhibition

PLASTICS PHILIPPINES 2002
7th International Plastics Machinery Technology Materials and Services Exhibition

september 25 - 28
WORLD TRADE CENTER
Metro Manila, Philippines
Exhibition Hours 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Persons below 18 yrs old will not be allowed inside the hall

INCLUDING A SIMULTANEOUS EVENT:
10th Philippine INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CONFERENCE & EXPO
Hall C, World Trade Center Pasay City, Philippines
ORGANIZED BY: Philippine Franchise Association

FREE
ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS OF PHILPRINT, PACKAGING & PLASTICS

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

SEPT 26 (THURSDAY)

2:00 - 3:00pm	Getting Your Message Across - The Sony Style by: Solid Video Corporation
3:00 - 5:00pm	JG Summit Evalene PP & PE Grades by: JG Summit

SEPT 27 (FRIDAY)

2:00 - 3:30pm	The Moneymaking ABC's of Quick Printing Business by: Gakken Philippines, Inc.
3:30 - 5:00pm	TGRAF/ American Technologies by: TGRAF/ American Technologies

PLUS........
Free Technical Seminars by the Packaging Institute of the Philippines
For Seminar schedule and details please contact
Ms. Lesma Gonzales-Navarette at Tel. Nos. (632)687-3051/ 6873143
or email: pipmlax@info.com.ph

SPECIAL SEMINAR ON LEAN MANUFACTURING

BY THE SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS (SME) MANILA CHAPTER (BY RESERVATION ONLY)
For more details, contact Ms. Lily Atienza at telefax (632) 687- 4827 or email at lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com

SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00 - 1:30pm	Definition & History of Lean Manufacturing
1:30 - 2:00pm	Elements of Lean Philosophy
2:00 - 2:30pm	Waste Elimination
2:30 - 3:15pm	Techniques of Lean Manufacturing a) Value Stream Mapping b) Measurable
3:15 - 3:30pm	BREAK
3:30 - 6:00pm	HHH Workshop

Presented by: Society of Manufacturing Engineers
by: MS. MA MILDRED L. HAYAG
Ford Production System (FPS) Specialist FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILS.
Note: Includes manuals, snacks and certificate of attendance

Organized by:
IIR EXHIBITIONS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Unit 1003, Antel 2000 Corporate Center 121 Valero St.
Salcedo Village Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 750-8588; 887-1304 Fax: (632) 750-8585; 887-1305
email: malouiirxp@skyinet.net

SUPPORTED BY:
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Packaging Institute of the Philippines
PPIA Philippines Plastics Industry Association, Inc.

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METAL WORKING & TOOLS PHILIPPINES 2002
6th International Machine Tools, Metalworking & Allied Industries Exhibition

INCORPORATING:

WELDING PHILIPPINES 2002
4th International Welding Equipment, Tools, Services, Technology and Allied Industries Exhibition.

INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION PHILIPPINES 2002
3rd Philippine International Factory, Automation, Tools, Materials, and Accessories Exhibition

HARDWARE & TOOLS PHILIPPINES 2002
3rd International Hardware Products Handtools, Industrial Support Equipment & Technology, Do-It-Yourself Supplies, Specialty Materials & Accessories Exhibition.

september 25 - 28
WORLD TRADE CENTER
Metro Manila, Philippines
Exhibition Hours 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Persons below 18 yrs old will not be allowed inside the hall

FREE
ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS

WATCH OUT FOR:
- Welding Skills Competition
- Free Product Presentations & Seminars
- Special Seminars on Lean Manufacturing
- Golf Tournament on Sept. 24
- MIAP mid-year convention
- Over 100 machines on display

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS
BY THE PHILIPPINE WELDING SOCIETY

SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00 - 3:00pm	Technologies in Shielding Gases & Related Equipment by: CIGI/SIG
3:00 - 4:00pm	Introduction to Lincoln Electric's Products and Services by: Lincoln Electric Phils.Inc.

SEPT 26 (THURSDAY)

1:00 - 3:00pm	Manufacturing of Quality Electrodes by: Industrial Welding Corporation
3:00 - 4:00pm	Various Products Demo/ Presentation by: Loctite/ Henkel Phils, Inc

SEPT 27 (FRIDAY)

1:00 - 3:00pm	Post-Weld Heat Treatment by: Voest Alpine
3:00 - 4:00pm	OGP's 3D Non-Contact Measuring Machines by: Maedan Enterprises
4:00 - 5:00pm	Welding Automation by: Tooleq, Inc.

SEPT 28 (SATURDAY)

1:00 - 3:00pm	Philippine Welding Society Gen. Membership Convention by: Philippine Welding Society

SPECIAL SEMINAR ON LEAN MANUFACTURING

BY THE SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS (SME) MANILA CHAPTER (by reservation only)
For more details, contact Ms. Lily Atienza at telefax (632) 687- 4827 or email at lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com

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1:30 - 2:00pm	Elements of Lean Philosophy
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Presented by: Society of Manufacturing Engineers
by: MS. MA MILDRED L HAYAG
Ford Production System (FPS) Specialist FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILS.
Note: Includes manuals, snacks and certificate of attendance

Organized by:
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Unit 1003, Antel 2000 Corporate Center 121 Valero St. Salcedo Village Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 750-8588, 887-1304 Fax: (632) 750-8585, 887-1305
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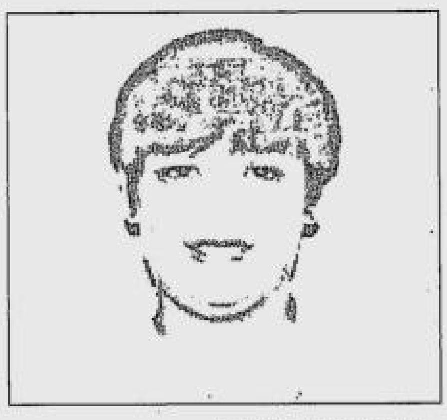
Contact Person ____________________

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MA. CRISTINA ADELA **TABIANA** ARIETE

A warrant of arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of the Sixth Judicial Region of Iloilo City against **MA. CRISTINA ADELA TABIANA ARIETE** whose picture appears herein with last known address in Greenfields Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City for the crime of QUALIFIED THEFT.

Any information leading to her immediate arrest may be reported to the following telephone numbers 894-1924 and 840-7872.

A considerable reward awaits any informant who could give a reliable information that would lead to the arrest of the above subject.

(PDI–Sept. 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon, through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) at least Medium A for Roads, to apply for the pre-qualification / eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

	Contract Name / Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract works	Calendar Days (Duration)
1.	Rehabilitation of Kiabo Proper-Mindagat Proper Farm - to - Market Road 6.3 kilometers	P9,191,664.00	146 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, shall submit their letter of intent and duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on or before October 9, 2002. eligibility screening shall be held on October 15, 2002 at 9:00 a.m., New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Pre-bid Conference will be on October 22, 2002 at Municipal Conference Hall, Malitbog Bukidnon.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from October 15, 2002 to October 22, 2002 at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on November 14, 2002, 9:00-10:00 A.M. at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and implementing Rules and Regulation.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA
Municipal Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 25, 26 & Oct. 1, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-Wide BAC) hereby invites interested contractors who are registered with PCAB with a project size and range of at least "Medium A" for building, to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the Construction of Academic I and Dormitory I Buildings Phase II both of the Philippine Science High School Bicol Region Campus (PSHS-BRC) and Philippine Science High School-Cagayan Valley Campus (PSHS-CVC). The approved budget for PSHS-BRC is P6,007,500.00 while that of PSHS-CVC is P6,395,200.00

Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST-Wide BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

Schedule of Activities	For PSHS-CVC	For PSHS-BRC
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	September 26, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig	September 26, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 4, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig	October 4, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave. Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of plans and other bidding documents	October 9, 2002 at the Office Multi-Infra Konsult, Inc.	October 9, 2002 at the Office of GPE Consultants and Co.
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m PSHS-CVC, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	October 18, 2002; 1:00 p.m., PSHS-BRC, Goa, Camarines Sur
Opening of bids	November 6, 2002; 10:00 a.m., DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.	November 6, 2002, 1:00 p.m., p.m., DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at http://www.dost.gov.ph. Eligible bidders may secure plans and other bidding documents upon payment of P3,000.00 for PSHS-CVC and P5,000.00 for PSHS-BRC non-refundable

The DOST-Wide BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson DOST-Wide BAC

(PDI - Sept. 23 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of CAPITAL CROSSING ASIA, INC. with office address at Ground Floor, Constellation Building, Makati Avenue corner Constellation Street, Makati City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New IT Service Firm in the field of IT-Enabled Services (Call Center and Business Process Outsourcing with project site at 7th Floor, BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City has been officially accepted on September 19, 2002.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 19th day of September 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – Sept. 25, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA, BRANCH 5

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR FELISE MICHAEL USITA

Sp. Proc. No. 00-98712

SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO & FELICIMA R.
GOSIEN-MARIANO,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------------x

AMENDED ORDER

In a verified petition filed with this Court by petitioners, **SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO AND FELICIMA R. GOSIEN-MARIANO** through counsel, they pray that after due notice, publication, and hearing, judgment be rendered granting the adoption of the minor **FELISE MICHAEL USITA**.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the initial hearing of this petition on October 23, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning, during which time and date all interested parties are cited to appear and show cause if any why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper published, edited, and of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and a copy of this Order with the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila and the DSWD-NCR. The Department of Social Welfare and Development-NCR is hereby ordered to conduct a Social Case Study as required by law and to submit to this Court the Child Study and Home Study Reports and their recommendation on the matter at least one week before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, March 25, 2002

AMALIA R. ANDRADE
Judge

(PDI - Sept. 25, Oct. 2 & 9, 2002)

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Trans Co

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 2, 2002
Loan No.: 1590 PHI
Contract No.: Sp02.CBTL.Lm-0341

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Power Transmission Reinforcement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Furnishing and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials & Construction of Calamba Tower No. 50 - Biñan 230 kV Steel Pole Double Circuit Transmission Line on Turn-Key Basis. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank.
2. NPC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Furnishing and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials & Construction of Calamba Tower No. 50 - Biñan 230kV Steel Pole Double Circuit Transmission Line of Turn-Key Basis.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents starting September 18, 2002 at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

   Office of the Manager
   Bids and Contracts Management Department
   2nd Floor, Building 2, NPC - OBC
   National Power Corporation
   BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue
   Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code: 1104)
   Philippines
   TeleFax: (632) 921-23-08

4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders or authorized representative upon submission of a letter of intent to the above address (Clause No. 3) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ten thousand (PhP 10,000.00) Philippine Pesos or two hundred US Dollars (US$ 200.00) per set.

   In case of foreign firm / company, acquisition of bidding documents can be made by remitting the equivalent amount in US Dollars Two hundred Twenty (US$ 220.00) to:

   Bank of New York, New York for credit to Account No. 8033281243
   Of Philippine National Bank, Head Office, Manila Philippines and for
   Further credit to Account No. 249-701218-2 of National Power Corporation (NPC) with Philippine National Bank, NPC Branch BIR Road Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

   A copy of remittance instruction/cable must be submitted to NPC together with the written application to the above address and must specify the name of person and designation with complete address where documents will be forwarded.

5. A two stage two envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals which have been submitted by qualified bidders will be discussed with the bidders and bidders will be required to adjust their proposals to reflect the changes and amendments requested by the Employer to conform with the requirements, and intent of the technical specifications. The bidders are further requested to submit a supplementary price proposal which contains the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal will be opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two hundred seventy thousand (US$ 270,000.00) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to above office address on or before January 6, 2003 at 1:30 PM. The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.
7. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals and supplementary price proposals, if provided, will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the ADB of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

2002 CONTRACTS AWARD COMMITTEE

By: ROLANDO T. BACANI
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 20, 25 & 30, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development

HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 729
Series of 2002

APPROVING THE DELETION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) EXEMPTION CLEARANCE FROM THE LIST OF DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR LOCATIONAL CLEARANCE FOR POULTRY AND PIGGERY PROJECTS, MARKETS AND THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MEMORIAL PARKS AND CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, the rules and Regulations to Govern the Applications for Locational Clearance for Markets, Memorial Parks and Cemeteries and Poultry and Piggery Projects were approved per HLURB Resolution Nos. 674, 681 and 682, S. of 2000, respectively;

WHEREAS, the same Rules and Regulations require submission of DAR Exemption Clearance as part of the documentary requirements for the processing of locational clearance for poultry and piggery projects, markets and for processing of preliminary and final approval of memorial park/cemetery plan;

WHEREAS, the Board approved last 19 June 2002 via Resolution No. 725 the deletion of DAR Exemption Clearance as a requirement for the issuance of Development Permit for subdivision and condominium projects and that in lieu thereof, a zoning certification issued by the HLURB Regional Officer be submitted indicating that the project site is within the area zoned for urban use (i.e. other than agricultural) prior to June 1988;

WHEREAS, for consistency in Board's policy relative to DAR Exemption Clearance, the Management Committee in its meeting last 24 July 2002, recommended the deletion of the said requirement in other land development projects such as poultry and piggery; markets and memorial parks and cemeteries;

WHEREFORE, BE IT APPROVED AS THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROVED, that DAR Exemption Clearance be deleted as part of the documentary requirements for the processing of locational clearance for poultry and piggery projects and markets and the preliminary and final approval of memorial park/cemetery plan, and that in lieu thereof, a zoning certification issued by the HLURB Regional Officer be submitted indicating that the project site is within the area zoned for urban use (i.e. other agricultural) prior to June 1988.

APPROVED this 21st day of August 2002.

MDefensor
MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman

JOSE C. CALIDA
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

ROMULO Q. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer
and Commissioner

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director-General, NEDA
Ex-Officio Commissioner

FRANCISCO L. DAGNALAN
Commissioner

JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH
Ex-Officio Commissioner

ROQUE ARRIETA MAGNO
Commissioner

Attested by:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI–Sept. 25, 2002)

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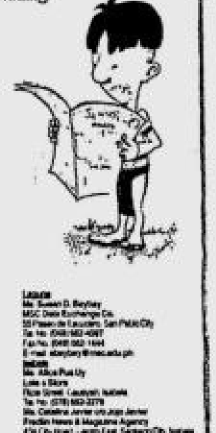

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF PACO MANILA
deeply mourns the untimely demise of its member

SAMMY BUGAYONG - DE GUZMAN

(PMMA '73)
Binmaley, Pangasinan

July 22, 1950-September 15, 2002

His wife, LORNA; children, SHARON, SHERYL, SAMMY, JR. and SARAH; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish, Gatchalian 2 Village, Las Piñas City.

Queridíssima Mamang
Váya con Díos, con todo nuestro amor y nuestra devocíon

Dona Isabelita Cuadra vda. de Torrillo

Nacío - 17 Abril 1914
Fallecío - 21 Septiembre 2002

Sus desconsolados híjas e híjos **Isabelita** e Luis (†), **Zenaida** y Carmelo (†), **Alfonso** y Neonancia, **Josephine** y Bayani, **Leonardo** e Isoda, su hermano Alberto Cuadra (†), su hermana Lucita Francisco (†) sus nietos y nietas a saber **Leo** y Myra, **Len**, **Bambino** y Shirley, **Renato** y Tess, **Beth**, **Humphrey** y Portia, **Joey** y Ester, **Jacqueline** y Jenny, **Horacio** y BecBec, **Martin** y Vivian, **Cherrie Pie** y Egay, **Gugoy**, **Bibit** y Baby, **Hen**, **Brami** y Grace, **Maryrose** y Francis, Leida, Malou, Roy y sus 35 gran nietos y gran nietas, sus parientes, amigas y su yaya Adela, suplíca a todos que ruegue piadósamante por su alma.

La Santa Misa se celebra todos los días en Arlington Memorial Chapels desde el 21 hasta el 27 de Septiembre, a las ocho por la noche (8:00 p.m.).

El entierro será el Sabado, 28 de Septiembre 2002, en Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City despues dela Santa Misa de las dos de la tarde (2:00 p.m.) en San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish Church, Project 8, Quezon City.

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FREE OBIT DESIGN

Mario Tomas Adriano Calasanz y Torres

September 8, 1956 - September 23, 2002

His bereaved mother **Ursula**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Teddy** and **Nechi**, **Purita** and **Pinko**, **Julie** and **Jing**, **Vic** and **Ningning**, and **Oliver**; nephews and nieces, **Pierra**, **Pierre**, **Simon**, **Michelle**, **Tuffy**, **Anton**, and **Kayee** and family pets, **Angus**, **Wuffles** and **DotCom** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Capilla San Francisco at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

FLORA YAZON ALONZO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 18, 2002 at the age of 74 in San Diego, California.

Her loving husband **Rodolfo R. Alonzo**; children **Judy** and **Erasmo Valdecañas**, **Chona** and **Efren Pizarro** and **Lutgardo** and **Joy Alonzo**; grandchildren **Christian Roan**, **Lloyd**, **Donna**, **Rennan**, **Arlene**, **Sasha**, **Vanna**, **Francis**, **Kristine** and **Clarisse** request the readers to pray for her soul.

Her remains will lie at 146 Laurel Street, San Jose Balanga City, Bataan on Friday, September 27, 2002. Interment will be on Monday, September 30, 2002 at Eternal Shrine Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral, Balanga City, Bataan.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: September 16, 2002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of **San Remigio, Antique**, as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **Sub-Project: Construction of Nagbangi I-Agricula Farm to Market Road with RCDG Bridge — (2.88 Km.) — (Package II).**
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders on **September 23-27, 2002** at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00)** per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **October 2, 2002 at 3:00 PM** addressed to: **The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee**, Municipality of **San Remigio, Antique.**
5. A Pre-Bid conference shall be held on **October 11, 2002 at 9:00 AM.** Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC).
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **October 25, 2002 at 10:00 AM.** Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by a GSIS bid security of **2-1/2% of the approved budget** or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget for this project is **Nine Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two and 95/100 Pesos Only (Php 9,560,482.95)**. Only Contractors/Bidders classified as **Medium Sub-Category "A"** by the CIAP with appropriate classification are the subjects of this invitation.
8. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **ELIZABETH C. COLOSO**
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI - Sept. 20, 23 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-5057; 372-5042
Fax Nos. 372-5048; 372-5061

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID/RE-BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invite you qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than 2:00 PM on **October 8, 2002.**

ITEM/S TO BID:

1	unit	Digital Video Camera *
1	unit	Portable Water Quality Field Meter *
1	unit	Water Quality Monitor *
1	unit	Navtex Receiver
1	unit	EPIRB
100	units	Portable GPS
6	sets	Sets Various Scuba Diving Equipment & Accessories *
2	rls	Nylon Rope

Bid for together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to be shown for authentication).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – Sept. 25, 2002)

BUSINESS

P0.53 PER LITER

Petroleum prices seen rising further

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion yesterday said local oil prices were expected to go up by 53 centavos per liter, but that this might not be reflected in pump prices until October.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said in a statement that there would be no more increases this month as the oil firms had already increased prices by 39 centavos per liter.

He said the increase was due to the increasing tension in the Middle East brought about by Iraq's decision to reject any new United Nations resolutions on weapons inspections.

Average Dubai crude prices for this month stood at $26.61 per barrel, up by $1.37 from $25.24 in August. The peso depreciated by 25 centavos from 51.82 to the dollar in August to 52.07 this month.

Caltex (Philippines) Inc., a Chevron Texaco company, yesterday admitted that prices of oil products were likely to increase further within the next few days as global market conditions continued to put pressure on the markets in the region.

Company officials said in a statement that the continued tensions in the Middle East have put a strain on costs. "International prices have continued to go up over the past several weeks. Even the price of diesel in the international market has already overtaken that of unleaded gasoline," Caltex officials said.

Other factors in the domestic business environment—such as demand, competition and the marketplace, including the deterioration of the peso versus the dollar—add to the pricing pressure.

Caltex said other regional markets had been reacting to these pressures by moving local prices in line with global price changes.

"Since January of this year and on a cumulative basis, the total price movement of unleaded gasoline and diesel prices in the Philippines, which nets to about P1.60 per liter, is much lower compared to the cumulative adjustments in neighboring countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Cambodia," company officials noted. "In these geographies, prices have moved up by as much as between P2 and over P3 per liter over the same period.

Officials said they were aware of the price sensitivity of the markets that Caltex serves, and that the company was a strong believer in smaller but more frequent price adjustments—as opposed to infrequent and large ones—as a system that benefits the consuming public in the long run. Caltex will continue to monitor market conditions closely and make adjustments to its prices independently and competitively.

Ronnel W. Domingo

Market sees another major bank merger

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ANOTHER consolidation is in the works in the local banking industry with the Bank of the Philippines Islands and Security Bank Corp. reportedly exploring a merger of the country's No. 2 and 15 banks.

The market is abuzz with speculation that top officials of BPI and Security Bank have held high-level discussions for a possible merger but reports were sketchy on whether a deal was imminent.

Security Bank president Rafael Simpao Jr. firmly denied speculation that the bank was in the market for a merger or takeover. Simpao said that at the moment "Security Bank does not see any need for a merger with BPI or any other bank for that matter."

Simpao said he first got wind of rumors of a BPI-Security Bank merger four months ago.

In a text message, the BPI corporate communications group said it was not in any merger talks with Security Bank.

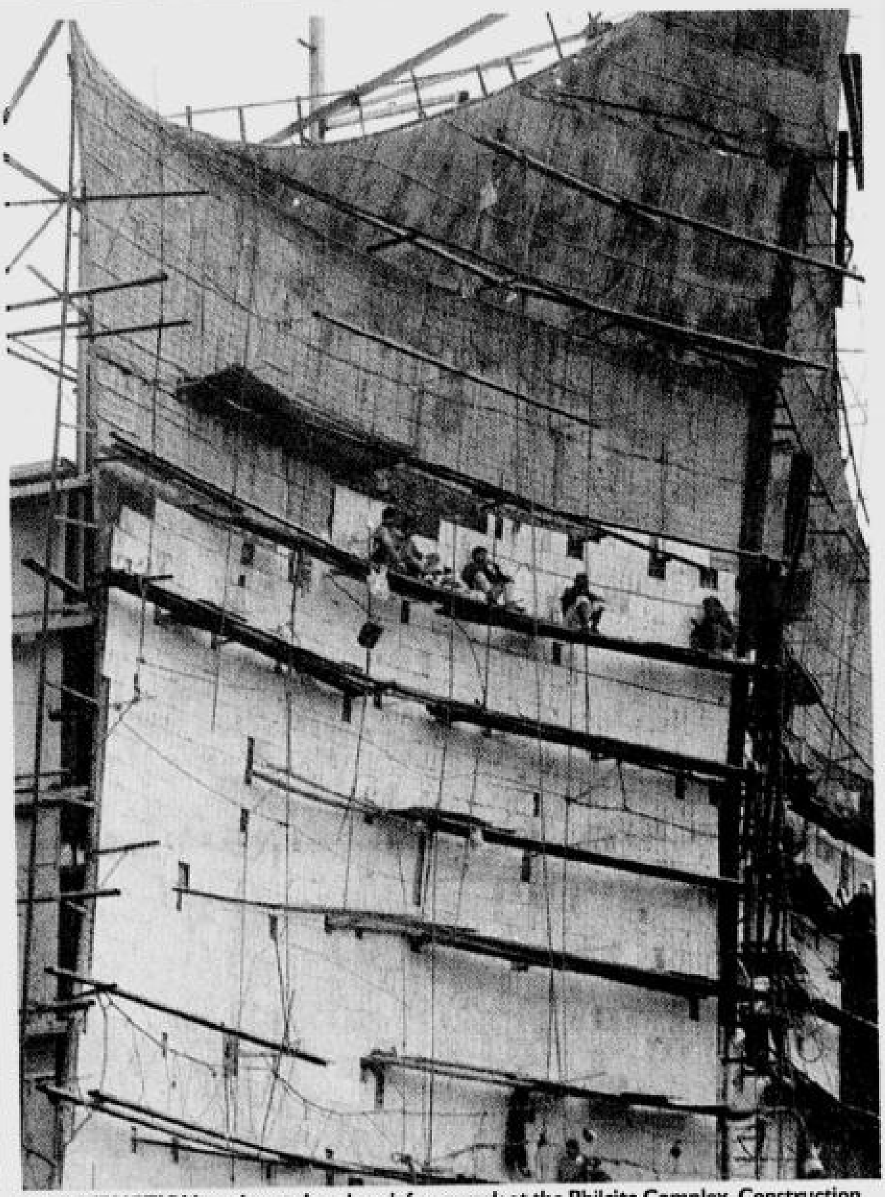
Ranked No. 15 among the country's 41 banks with P65.8 billion in assets, Security Bank is widely seen as the most probable target of a merger or a takeover bid by other big banks, specifically BPI and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. Security Bank's major shareholders include Frederick Dy, Philip Ang, the Social Security System, and the Hung brothers of Taiwan.

Security Bank is regarded as the "Little Metrobank" because, like the country's largest bank, it has carved a niche in the lucrative Filipino-Chinese business community and established close links with Taiwanese businessmen.

Despite a series of blockbuster deals in the last two years, Metrobank and BPI are still yearning to bulk up through mergers and acquisitions. Both are currently eyeing potential targets in the ranks of mid-range banks because of very few, delectable prospects among their peers in the top 10 list.

A merger with Security Bank should keep BPI within range of the country's largest bank Metrobank. But even if BPI succeeded in acquiring Security Bank, Metrobank, which recently took full ownership of Global Bank, would hold on to its No. 1 position with P470 billion in assets (including Global Bank) versus BPI's P440 billion (including BPI Family and possibly Security Bank).

The battle between Metrobank and BPI over bragging rights as the country's No. 1 bank started when the Ayalas beat George Ty to the draw in the purchase of Far East Bank and Trust Co. Ty strung up 3 major acquisitions—Philippine Banking Corp., Asian Banking Corp. and Solid Banking Corp.— to regain the No. 1 position briefly held by BPI after its merger with Far East Bank.



CONSTRUCTION workers take a break from work at the Philcite Complex. Construction activities in the country have started to pick up in preparation for the Christmas season.

BOY CABRIDO

AEV offers to buy WG&A shares of minority owners

By Elena R. Torrijos

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc., the publicly listed holding company of the Cebu-based Abotiz family, has filed a tender offer application with the Securities and exchange Commission to purchase the remaining shares of shipping firm William Gothong & Aboitiz.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., the publicly listed holding company of the Cebu-based Abotiz family, has filed a tender offer application with the Securities and exchange Commission to purchase the remaining shares of shipping firm William Gothong & Aboitiz.

AEV also disclosed it had completed the buy-out of the Gothong and Chiongbian families from the WG&A.

In a press statement yesterday, AEV said that it signed yesterday a share purchase agreement that formalized the transfer of 881.6 million WG&A shares of the Chiongbian and Gothong groups to AEV.

AEV had agreed to purchase the shares at P3.98 per share or a total of P3.5 billion, of which 50 percent was payable in cash.

The deal increases the stake of the Aboitiz group in WG&A to 90 percent, of which 73 percent is owned by AEV.

Under the tender offer application filed with the SEC, AEV would offer to purchase shares of WG&A held by the remaining minority shareholders also at P3.98 per share.

AEV said the tender offer would be open to all WG&A shareholders of records as of Oct. 7, 2002. The tender offer period will start on Oct. 14, 2002 and end on Nov. 22, 2002.

The minority shares to be sold will be paid 10 working days after the termination of the tender offer.

Gov't offers Subic freeport as site for regional oil stockpile

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday said it would initiate talks with new oil firm Subic Bay Distribution Inc. (SBDI), which holds the rights to Subic Bay's oil storage facilities, on locating the proposed regional oil stockpile in the freeport.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said in an interview that the government had offered to member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other Asian countries Subic Bay as a possible site for the stockpile .

Perez, who attended the 8th International Energy Forum last week, said Japan had proposed to have a common stockpile with Korea, China and the 10-member Asean.

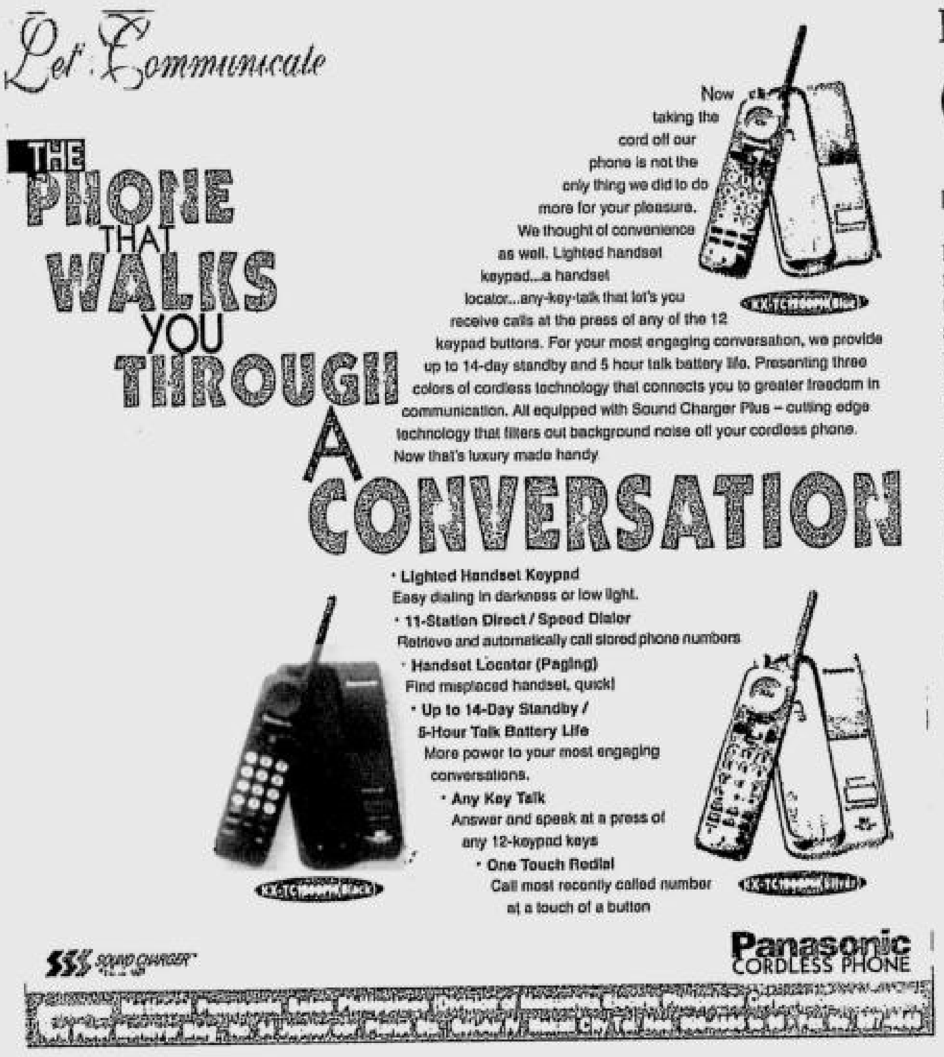
"We have offered Subic Bay as a possible site because of its strategic location and its accessibility," the official explained.

He said the current flow of crude shipments from the Middle East " passes through only a few kilometers off Subic" on their way to East Asian countries.

"Hosting the regional stockpile would also give the country a strategic access to the supply," Perez said.

The energy chief added that the DOE would engage SBDI in talks to iron out possible conflicts with the oil firm's leasehold rights to Subic Bay's oil storage facilities.

He said SBDI had a lot of unused storage space and that its oil terminals were very secure since they used to serve a naval base.



Let' Communicate

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RAISING COLLECTIONS

Gov't vows to plug tax leaks

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has assured foreign investors that, despite the global economic slowdown, the Philippine government could increase its revenue collection in the coming months by plugging tax leaks.

In a teleconference with reporters yesterday, Camacho said he had just completed a series of investors briefing in Singapore together with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Investor Relations chief Cora Guidote.

In the briefings with Singapore-based investors, the finance chief said that many remained concerned about the budget deficit and how it could be addressed in the face of declining economic prospects worldwide.

"In the face of what appears to be a worldwide deflation, they asked where (Philippine) government revenues would come from," Camacho noted.

He said that even if the Philippine economy became vulnerable to a global slowdown, there should remain substantial revenues to collect considering the estimated huge tax leakage.

Next year, the government must raise P640.7 billion in revenues to contain the deficit within the P142.1 billion ceiling.

"There is room for tax revenues to grow if we could only collect our taxes efficiently and as we bring into the tax net more of the so-called informal sector ," said the finance secretary.

The DOF estimated that, based on 2000 tax collection, the leak on value-added tax, corporate and personal income tax, excise, and all other taxes reached P242.47 billion. Other agencies estimated the tax leak at a range of P113 billion to P198 billion while the International Monetary Fund believed the loophole cost the government about P80 billion.

PT&T hits Digitel for cutting off network link

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. has accused Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications

Philippines Inc. of directly violating the law when it cut off the network links between the two firms without the National Telecommunications Commission's approval.

In a telephone interview yesterday, PT&T carrier relations assistant vice president Ernesto Barro

said Digitel disconnected PT&T from its network without even informing the NTC of the reasons for doing so.

Republic Act 7925, or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines, provides that a telecommunications company needs the approval of the NTC before it can cut off its network link with other phone companies.

"They violated the law by suddenly disconnecting us. The commercial issues can be settled.

They don't have to disconnect us," Barro said.

But Digitel said it would not restore links with PT&T until they reach an acceptable payment scheme for PT&Ts P45 million worth of debts.

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PEOPLE at WORK
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

EQ PRIMER

High EQ raises firm's profitability

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the sixth of a series of articles on emotional intelligence.)

YOU can have a high EQ or emotional intelligence, which is the pivotal factor in career success. EQ, unlike IQ which is inherited, can be learned. There are eight areas which you can work on to develop a high EQ. These are: self-awareness, strong self-motivation, self-management, getting the required training or coaching, having a positive role model at work, practicing the skills in real work situations, getting feedback and forming the right habits through constant practice on EQ skills based on feedback. The first four areas were discussed in the previous articles of this series.

Role model

The fifth area is following a role model. When you are learning emotional competencies, it is important to observe a leader who is successful in his interpersonal dealings - a role model. The Positive Role Model or PRM should exhibit the social and interpersonal skills needed in success at work. Then, you pattern your behavior to the role model. This is referred to as behavior modeling. Since the PRM does not have time nor the skill for personal coaching, you will need an external coach. This coach will meet regularly with you to assess your present practice, role play the right behavior, provide feedback, observe you in actual work situations, give encouragement and feedback and monitor improvement. During this process, practice your new found the EQ skills in actual work situations.

Practice is important in behavior modeling. This is sometimes overlooked when evaluating training programs. The typical leadership training programs on interpersonal skills usually start with self-awareness and ends with the writing of action plans. But the action plan gets filed with the training manual. "That was a good program! I learned so much!" an enthusiastic participant would gush. But after a week or so, participants go back to the old habits or becomes "BS-DU" meaning "balik sa dating ugali." People think that the training had no effect on the participants' behavior or "walang nangyari."

Misperception

Management then becomes hesitant in investing money and time in leadership programs and interpersonal relationships skills training. They see no benefit to the individual, the team and the organization. Because of this perception, managers do not give priority to the participation of their subordinates in training programs or do not attend training programs themselves.

However, to learn EQ competencies, there must be deliberate and sustained practice after the skills training. Identify actual work situations and the EQ skills you need to use. Practice the skills with your coach and then apply them at work.

Without practice and an individualized approach, training on emotional competencies will not be effective. Renowned trainor Donald Kilpatrick wrote that training effectiveness can be measured by the level in which the learning was applied on the job and affected bottom line results.

Impact on profit

EQ training is worth the investment because it affects the "bottom line" in the following ways.

· High EQ leads to good and positive relationships between the leader and team members which in turn leads to high retention rate of desirable employees and lower costs of recruitment, training, development of new employees;

· High EQ leads to retention of customers who are delighted by the service provided and referrals to potential customers;

· High EQ facilitates better and less time-consuming CBA negotiations;

· High EQ generates more creative and innovative ideas from employees who are listened to, and given positive reinforcements;

· High EQ enhances loyalty to organization of talented employees who are developed thru coaching and mentoring.

Here is an actual case of a female executive with low EQ who was helped by this writer to develop and improve her EQ competencies.

Pia (not her real name) was the VP for finance of a financial services company. She was single and in her mid-30s. The company president and some of her peers described her as brilliant. Through her financial strategies and controls, she was able to reduce costs, thereby increasing the profitability of the company. She was the nemesis of the marketing and sales executives who saw her controls as "asphyxiating."

Her direct reports described her as a perfectionist who very often used judgmental and demeaning language (such as, "You are so stupid not to spot this error" "What kind of CPA are you?"), was impatient with slow learners, saw only what's wrong, and never praised people for good work ("That's your job, and you get paid for it, isn't it?").

Inhuman ways

During staff meetings, she would state the problem and tell her subordinates what to do to solve the problem. Yet, she often complained that her staff, who were all college graduates of the better schools in Metro Manila and some of whom had MBA degrees, were "*tameme*" (tongue-tied and unable to speak). She complained that they were passive, merely accepted instructions, and just complied with her decisions and instructions. She did not listen to ideas or objections presented and had the habit of interrupting or butting in when someone was talking. All these data came from the exit interviews the HR |Manager had with Pia's two managers who resigned because they could not stand any more her "inhuman ways."

Effects of low EQ

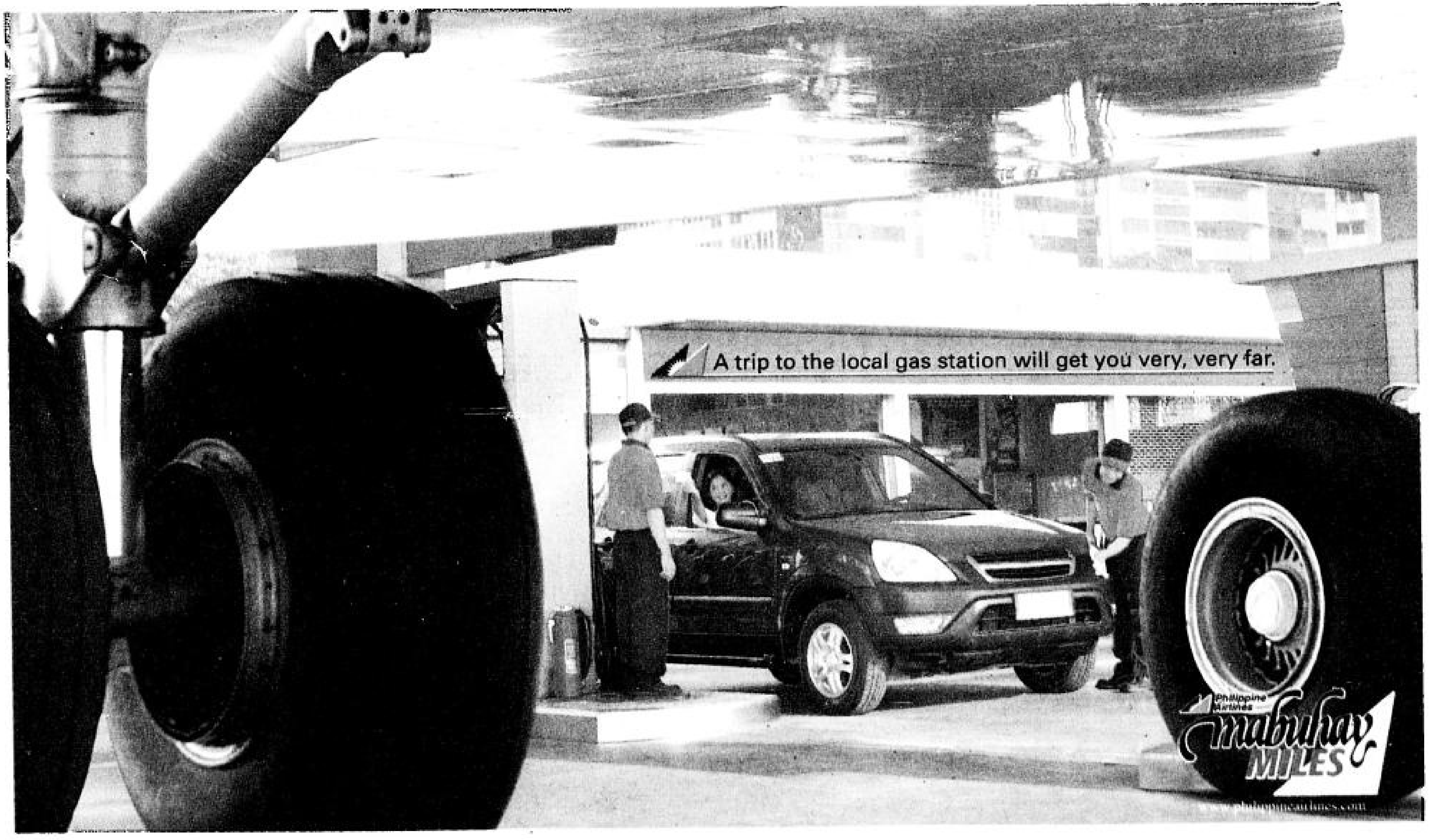
SANTAMARIA

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

What were the effects of her behavior on her staff? They were indeed passive and complacent, did not give their ideas for fear of being "made to feel stupid," and said "yes" to everything that she said. Pia was frustrated with the behavior of her staff and wished that they would be open and express their honest opinions and innovative and creative ideas. It was a lose-lose situation, with both Pia and her staff frustrated with one another. The resignation of two of her high potential managers to work for a competitive company shocked her and the company president. She was naturally very defensive and gave different explanations to justify the resignation.

The company president was very concerned about the loss of these two valuable managers. Although he wanted to keep Pia, he also believed that she needed to change. He called this writer for a meeting and asked if Pia could be helped to change. The answer was a conditional "yes," i.e., if Pia was willing to change. It also depended on whether she would be open to being helped. Right there and then, the president called Pia to join the meeting. Pia expressed her strong desire to change and her openness to being helped.

HIGH EQ /C2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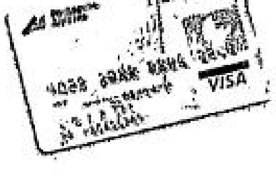

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HR BEST PRACTICES

Get the best to hire the best

DAMIAN

BENJAMIN Punongbayan, co-founder of Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), one of the country's top auditing firms, had only one specific instruction to Alfredo Damian when the latter accepted his offer to head the personnel department of P&A: Give us the best.

"When Ben hired me," says Damian, "my mandate was clear. Make sure the firm was constantly supplied with the best people we could find in the market. We were aiming for top-of-the-line professional services, so we had to have top-of-the-line people."

At the time Damian joined P&A, the firm had a seeming handicap. Everyone who heard the name for the first time thought it was a law firm. The pioneers had to introduce themselves by taking the extra step of explaining that it was, in fact, an accounting firm.

While Punongbayan himself was widely respected within accounting circles-he has a stellar reputation for probity and independence, and a passion (some say obsession) for quality service-by and large in the beginning, Punongbayan & Araullo was a name that invited quizzical looks and the inevitable follow-up question. How then do you convince the best people to join a firm who name hardly ring a bell?

Clearly, P&A needed someone who could "sell" the firm, so to speak, make it an attractive option to both the adventurous industry professional drawn to the idea of growing with a promising start-up, and the hungry college kid just out of school who'd be raring for some real professional work in a "stable" company.

It was a steep bipolar challenge but Punongbayan had made an astute choice with his first recruit. Damian was a veteran of over 30 years in the human resources field. He had built his career attracting some of the best and brightest graduates to public accounting. He was a well-known figure in the college-speaking circuit, a fixture in accounting-related school events and commencement exercises.

He had, in short, the name and the network to establish P&A's presence in the industry's traditional recruiting grounds.

In joining P&A, Damian saw a golden opportunity to prove why he had the complete trust and confidence of Punongbayan. His game plan: aggressively hire the best people via a fresh recruitment strategy.

"The first thing we did was to offer a higher entry-level salary and that gave us the initial attention we needed among the top accounting graduates," he says. "Then we began inviting them out for lunch or dinner to introduce them to P&A and the opportunities it offered." It was not a new strategy, of course, because firms abroad practice it all the time.

"Because we initially didn't have a name that was recognized everywhere, we couldn't expect the best graduates to beat a path to our doors," Damian explains. "We had to go to them and present ourselves as a preferable choice."

That meant recruiting people via a greater one-on-one interaction, by building a more personalized relationship between the firm and the promising students it wanted to attract. Rather that wait for the hordes of new graduates to show up in March, for example, P&A would reach out to a few targeted names way before the last report cards were in-inviting these students to visit the office, broadly supporting school activities in which they participated, and personally wishing them luck on the eve of the CPA exams.

Right on its first year, the firm began to enjoy the fruits of its innovative recruitment program.

"Out of the 13 new staff we were able to recruit during our first year, nine of them topped the CPA board exams, " Damian recalls with pride.

Was it beginner's luck? "Maybe because when we hired them, we didn't know they were going to be topnotchers," says Damian. "Remember, these were the days when the exam results were released only after six months. We knew they were going to do well, but we didn't know we were going to have the best of the lot."

What attracted these smart young CPAs to the new kid on the block? "I don't think it was just the salary," he says, "because when you come to think of it, the difference was only a few hundred pesos. I believe it was the excitement to become a pioneer. P&A gave these kids the opportunity to work and create something of their own, to do something different, to become part of the company's growth. They knew that the success-or failure-of the firm also relied on their shoulders."

Recruitment was not the end of Damian's business. Punongbayan had a second tall order for him. Create a culture where people would want to work hard, excel in their jobs and be fairly rewarded for it.

Damian set out by fostering a highly collegial atmosphere among the partners and junior members of the firm. Students and visitors alike often marvel at the air of congeniality and lack of bureaucracy in the P&A offices. Partners are called by their first names and practice a friendly, open-door policy. Anyone can call them up about work concerns and not get the runaround from secretaries.

No one is more pleased and satisfied with the way P&A has turned out than its chief cheerleader. Still, Damian refuses to take full credit and insists that all he did was to fulfill Punongbayan's vision. But, as Punongbayan and the rest of P&A would certainly acknowledge, Damian's innovativeness and great people management skills have played a crucial part in making the firm an employer of choice among the best people in the industry.

In other words, Damian himself may be P&A's best recruit.

High EQ raises firm's profitability

From page C1

During the first meeting with her executive coach, Pia responded to the data from the exit interviews of her two managers who had resigned. She did not defend her actions; in fact, she expressed her willingness to change and to learn certain interpersonal skills, although she expressed doubts whether she could ever really change being already "too old" and "an old dog", as she put it.

Antecedents

Pia was asked to identify the internal and external antecedents to her aggressions towards her staff. These were her paradigms or mindsets that affected her perceptions of her employees; in turn, these perceptions made her say critical, judgmental and demeaning words, become impatient, use the telling and directing mode, and butt in or interrupt a person talking.

The coach listed each one down. Pia was asked to share how she would feel and react if these were said or done to her.

She listed down her present paradigms or mindsets and indicated beside it the paradigms that she should have. The new paradigms were as follows:

- "My staff knows some things I may not know because they have different work experiences and exposure to other concepts in finance and accounting."
- "I need my staff. If they resign and I need to do their work, I won't be able to deliver my accountabilities as VP Finance."
- "I make mistakes, too, and I learn from these mistakes."
- "It is my duty as their superior to tell them my standards and to coach them to meet these standards."
- "Sincere words of praise from a superior are the 'psychological oxygen' that make subordinates 'glow and grow.' I myself am motivated to work better when my boss gives me sincere compliments."

New skills

For the initial self-management project, she listed down, with the help of her coach, the following skills she wanted to learn:

- Attentive and empathic listening. She identified the following specific behavior related to this as follows:
  - To ask the opinion of or seek information from, another person
  - To keep silent when the other person expresses his/her opinion or gives information
  - To paraphrase what was said before giving her response
  - To put herself in the situation of the other person and determine what are the deeper needs and feelings of this person and
  - To reflect back to the other person what the latter's feelings are about a situation.
- Assertive, not aggressive, communication. This means being able
  - to express herself-her opinions, thoughts and feelings, honestly and openly and looking directly at the eyes of the person she was speaking to;
  - to stop the use of judgmental and demeaning language, such as "stupid."
- Giving feedback using the I-message after observing or looking at the written reports of her employees as follows:
  - Give positive feedback for what's right about the reports. Example: "I like the brief summary you made of the highlights of your analysis."
  - Give a negative constructive feedback to what behaviors are wrong or what aspects of the report were unacceptable. Example: "I am disappointed that, for two times this week you were late for 15-30 minutes in coming to office. What can you do to come to office early?" Then listen attentively to the response of the employees and paraphrase what the latter said.

Skills practice

In the next session with her coach, Pia role played each of the above skills. The coach noted her facial expression, her tone of voice and her body language. She also identified who of her staff she would exhibit the above behaviors.

Pia then identified a fellow executive who could be her positive role model (PRM). She picked out Bobby, the sales director, whom she considered to be proficient in these skills. Bobby was flattered that Pia had chosen him to be her PRM and was only too happy to help her. The coach asked Bobby to observe Pia during Mancom meetings and to give her feedback on her listening and assertive communication skills. The president was also asked to do the same.

Pia and her coach met for a number of sessions for a period of four months. Initially, she would often express her discomfort at having "to act differently," and that she felt strange. "*Para akong* plastic (I sound as though I'm plastic). It's not me at all," she would complain to her coach, but the latter encouraged and assured her that such feelings were normal and that if she kept repeating the new behaviors, eventually they would become normal for her.

During her sessions with her coach, Pia would tell the situations where she used her skills correctly and those where she thought she was a failure. In the latter cases, the coach had her describe the situation and role-played what she did and how she did it. Then she herself made the correction on how she could have done it in a better way.

The project was a success. This was the consensus of the president, Bobby (the PRM), the direct reports of Pia and some of her peers. Of course, Pia was happy and proud of herself.

There were five factors that contributed to Pia's success:

- Pia's strong self-motivation to change her negative paradigms and behaviors and to learn new emotional competencies.
- The all-out support of the president, Pia's superior. This support was shown in the following: hiring of an executive coach for Pia at company expense and time, having positive expectations of Pia, observing Pia and giving her positive feedback when he noticed improvements, and giving feedback to the coach about Pia.
- Having a positive role model and having the model give encouragement and positive feedback to Pia.
- Cooperation of the accounting manager of Pia who had talked to his peers to give Pia a chance to implement changes in her behaviors. This Accounting Manager gave feedback to the coach on how Pia conducted meetings and how the skills were being used.
- Having an executive coach with whom she role played, who gave feedback, talked to those with whom Pia interacted and who monitored her progress, encouraged and coaxed her into the right behavior.

It took four months from the start of the project up to the time Pia felt self-confident that she could stand alone. In those four months, Pia and her coach would meet from once to twice a week with telephone calls in between. Meetings with her coach could be during weekdays or weekends depending on Pia's workload.

Communication

Even after the coaching sessions were completed, Pia and her coach continued to communicate by phone and at times she would meet her coach for lunch. There were times that she expressed great difficulty in controlling her anger but was thankful that there was always someone-her accounting manager or her PRM-who would remind her with a look or a touch on her arm. Pia became convinced that nothing important can ever get done alone; and that she needed others just as others needed her.

Like Pia, you too can develop your EQ or enhance it. Work on the eight important areas and you'll find that EQ can be your ladder to career success.

(Josie O. Santamaria is a career development practitioner and professional psychologist. She and her husband, Jorge, manage Career Systems, Inc., a management consulting and training corporation that provides training programs and consulting services to the Philippines' top 500 corporations. Her e-mail address is carsys@qinet.net Ms. Santamaria will be conducting a two-hour seminar on "Coaching and Counselling Skills on Nov. 12, 2002 at the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Management Skills. To register, call 935-6678.)

High EQ leads to retention of customers who are delighted by the service provided and referrals to potential customers

We've dug ourselves

A different OCW story

By Alice C. Escudero

THE PICTURESQUE setting was perfect, even with a thriving garment factory in this tiny pacific island of Saipan. Clean beaches surrounded the entire island and the cool wind was soothing. There was no air pollution and traffic, a boon to all residents, both the locals and the overseas contract workers. I found the locals (Chamorros) to be disciplined and peace-loving people and their culture strongly influenced by the Spaniards with most of them Catholics.

My journey to this wondrous place started when John K. Riggins, the factory's American general manager, told me that I would be taken in as administrative assistant for the personnel department of Saipan's second largest garment firm. He hired me on the day he interviewed me among a number of other hopefuls in Manila a few Christmas eves ago.

Colorful life

In the garment factory, personnel is not merely a department where an employee runs to when he needs to file a sick leave or gets social security benefits assistance. Our personnel department was composed of people who had the most colorful and outgoing personalities in the company's organizational structure.

POSTCARDS *from the* **CORPORATE EDGE**

In personnel, I had multi-faceted roles. Along with five staff working under a Filipina personnel manager (one of the highest positions given to a Filipino in a foreign-run factory here), I had to arm myself with driving skills (traffic rules included), first-aid skills and knowledge of US health and sanitation laws. The latter was needed not only in the factory or workstations but also in living quarters. Part of my job was to make sure we were complying with these laws which entailed checking of fire extinguishers, seeing to it that exit points/signs are well-lighted, checking if boxes stacked in the warehouse were of the required height and other tasks down to the smallest detailed safety requirement.

I also had to be familiar with US Labor laws and US Immigration laws for alien workers--all of which I had to learn upon my arrival there. I had to learn language interpretation (though Filipinos anywhere in the world will not have a hard time speaking the English language) and make daily written personnel reports, manpower inventory and renewals of work permits. I had to transport workers to and from the hospital or airport anytime of the day (midnight or dawn) plus attend the regular seminars/training to upgrade my skills.

Diverse experiences

I performed other duties such as hosting Christmas party programs, being part of the editorial staff for the company's first newsletter (with it came the chance to give the general manager the task to write the editorials which he proudly submitted days before deadline), and driving a company vice president to the airport. While doing the latter, I discovered we both speak Spanish and afterwards, when he visited the factory, I got to polish my Spanish).

I learned different languages as I got to work everyday with a thousand workers coming from about nine different countries and several other ethnic minorities.

The company's success in creating a safety committee for the factory of which I was a member and which was chaired by our general manager paved the way for good teamwork. Our teamwork resulted in well-defined areas of responsibilities in the factory and strict compliance with safety programs. American, Hongkong Chinese, and Korean employees were as efficient and as hardworking as the Filipino employees when it came to working for and achieving targeted goals.

My desire to acquire more knowledge about work was limitless, boundless. I looked at my job not as a duty but came to love it as well.

Sweet memories

Ah, the life of an overseas contract worker...sometimes what seems to be a small amount of happiness to others may be the grandest happiness to us. Our faces lighted up at the sight of cornic, bagoong, and balot often brought as pasalubong by a returning Pinoy OCW. There were lots of times to laugh, to enjoy life despite the distance we had to endure being away from our loved ones back home. There were tough times as I listened to a fellow overseas worker tell her life story. We survived a tsunami, heavy rains and very strong winds. The difficulties were part of our lives there. Yet, there were light moments to appreciate and love life more.

I felt sad that after four years, the factory had to shut down due to recession in the US garment industry that affected all other garment businesses in the US territories. We all had to go home because our work permits were no longer valid. Upon our arrival, we lighted a candle for one Filipina contract worker (Flor Contemplacion) who was hanged in an Asian country for allegedly drowning and killing her ward in the bathroom. We cried and mourned with the nation for her-a Filipino contract worker like us.

How I long to go back to that island where race and culture did not pose hindrances to love for work, knowledge, excellence and teamwork. But then, one can no longer turn back the hands of time; one can only reminisce and treasure a beautiful and rewarding privilege.

(Send contributions to Postcards to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

Leaders and change go together

By Rochelle Leonor

Top executives should have the vision and drive to bring and initiate change

AT A time when business organizations face accelerating change, company executives are challenged to change the way they handle things. Instead of managing and maintaining status quo, they are expected to step up and practice leadership. Instead of planning and controlling the way they run business, they need to promote change and envision new direction for their company. Be a leader or be left behind.

Change initiator

But what is leadership? How does it differ from management?

John Keenan, an organizational psychologist and partner of Impact-SCS, says management mainly deals with supporting and controlling efficiency in terms of the current structure. Leadership, on the other hand, emphasizes the need to do more. In a time when change is prevalent, top executives should have the vision, drive and commitment to bring and initiate change.

What makes a leader? Keenan says that some leaders are born. Greatness is written in their destiny. Examples of great leaders are St. Francis of Assisi and Mother Teresa, who inspired and encouraged many people. On the other hand, Keenan says there are also those who lead typical and mundane lives who are suddenly faced with a situation that allows them to realize and achieve leadership. The former mayor of New York Rudolph Giuliani is an example. He stepped up during the Sept 11 attacks and didn't wither. He was hailed by everyone as one of the heroes of the tragedy.

Leadership traits

What are the qualities of a good leader? Keenan says leadership is a philosophy, a way of life. A good leader is a spiritual and intellectual man. He is a person of reflection and contemplation. He is visionary-charge and asks, "what might be." He mentions the other traits of a good leader as follows:

· A good leader is ethical. He does the right thing and does not necessarily go with the popular opinion. The most respected leaders are good and trustworthy. His people know that he does not possess a self-driven ego but is after the betterment of others.

· A good leader is focused. He has an integrated set of leadership, beliefs, values, competencies and skills. He cultivates commitment and involvement in his people. He inspires others to become better persons. Keenan says, "Great leaders are not with the swords but those with words of inspiration and encouragement."

· A good leader is courageous. He has the qualities of will and determination. He has the ability to stay focused and not get distracted in realizing his vision. He does what needs to be done and does not abandon his people in times of critical situations. He confronts his own fears and is able to find a source of inspiration for others.

· A good leader is humble. He is not afraid to learn from his mistakes. He respects the views and opinions of his people. He knows that he can learn many things from listening to others. He welcomes feedbacks and criticisms.

· A good leader molds new leaders. His greatest pride is to make leaders of his people.

KEENAN

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Moving forward

And how does one develop leadership in one's people? Keenan says that practicing what you preach is the key. As long as people see that you practice what you believe in, they will follow suit. Keenan also advises that leaders should be supportive to others. It is important to help them in their professional development. A good leader must present his people with professional opportunities to move forward, even if it means leaving the company.

Good leaders, combined with good people, will help business organizations achieve greatness. They will help organizations master the shifting sands of change.

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How to...

From page C4

try to the dot.com industry. I was very much inspired by the late Eugenio Lopez whose philosophy was to bring new products and services that contribute to a positive change in our society. That has become my vision that led to the creation of my project, www.match.ph. which has seeks to bring two people for friendship and love.

PaW: What is the right attitude when switching careers?

Mary Ann: I am a chronic optimist. I have a positive outlook in life. I advise people to persevere, keep on trying. Ninety percent of all those who fail are not defeated. They simply quit.

PaW: How do you enhance your skills to advance in your career?

Mary Ann: I have enjoyed being mentored and at the same time mentoring people whom I hope will do the same for others. Mentoring is important in any career advancement. Find a good coach who can provide information, direction, support and training to further enhance your skills. There is no shame in asking for help. Just last week, I called up a friend who is an expert in their industry to help me evaluate a campaign I am working on. Continue to learn new things by attending seminars and talks about career enhancement.

Paw: How do you explore a new career direction?

Mary Ann: Do your homework, be resourceful. Browse the Internet. Attend trade shows. Be an observer. Check the market trends. Opportunities exist all around us. The best ones are often right under our noses. Start with your present job--the work you know best--and develop great contacts. Engage in hobbies and interests outside work with which you have a natural inclination for.

(For more chats on career and workplace concerns, watch the People at Work segment every Monday on Studio 23's Breakfast, which is aired from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays.)

Exec asks, 'How can I achieve balance amidst busyness?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a very busy person. I work as a manager during the day and I teach as a part time professor in the evenings. I have two children, one in high school and another in college.

My wife complains that I no longer find time for her and our children. I enjoy what I am doing and often tell myself that I am preparing for the future of my kids. I admit that I get stressed easily. I heard from a friend who knows you that you are a very busy person and yet live a wholesome family life. How do you keep your work life balance? Please advice.

Stressed Executive

Just like you, keeping work life balance is a continuing challenge for me too. It must be the disease of our age that work dominates our life.

In a recent book, Michael Ventura describes vividly the new environment we live in. "A world tossing and turning, restless with fresh and disturbing impulses, trying to redo itself, realign itself and trying to live up to its troubled and inarticulate sense of realities.

That's what everybody is complaining about, not that the world's asleep but that it can't sleep any longer." Work has become so exciting we find it difficult to settle down and rest.

Settling down

How do I settle down amidst exciting work? What keeps me balanced? What helps me most is discovering my personal vision, mission and values. These have made me focus on what is truly important.

Opportunities abound calling us with their siren song. What is critical is discerning what opportunities are aligned with what we want out of life. For example, do you have to teach every evening or can you just teach one or two evenings a week?

I remember in my younger years when I was still employed with a big company, I had a conversation with a veteran manager that made me think deeply.

I related how my two kids took so much of my time and attention outside of work. He told me to cherish each day spent with them while they still needed me.

Someday, they will be so independent that I would regret not spending enough time with them. This was exactly what I tried to do.

Now most of them are grown-ups and I can now relish the memories and the experience of spending time with them.

Present moment

The second thing that helps me is the principle of living the present moment. This principle allows me to remain simple amidst complex and demanding activities.

I try to do well one task at a time. It gives me laser-like focus and concentration. It allows me not to get stymied by events of the past or get too attached with the demands of the future. It enables me to manage my time and stress well.

When it is time to work, I pour all my energies at work. When I finish working, I move on to other roles in my life.

The third balancing factor is making time for building relationships.

First of all, with people close to us, our immediate family. Often, we deceive ourselves that there is much time ahead. But the future is now. Who knows how much time we really have to express our love for people we care for?

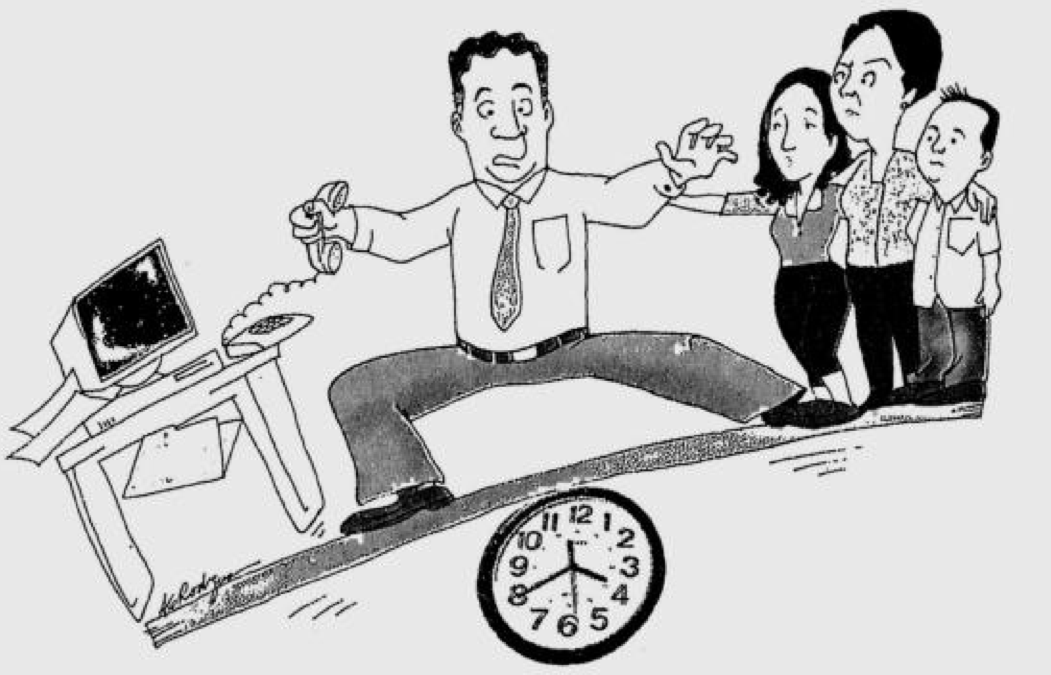
In my case, I try to have conversations with each of my four children at the end of each day. I have to seize the time when it presents itself. See if I can convert them into learning moments.

Often, I fail to give my complete attention and my children would kid me about it. But I have to keep on trying. Then, again, make time for your friends. I have bosom friends from high school whom I try to see at least once a month. They keep my sanity intact. They remind you that life is best with true friends around.

Caring for yourself

The fourth balancing factor is taking care of yourself. Often, when we work with much concentration, we forget to care for our bodies. We forget to breathe causing stress. The vitamins we have to drink remain in the bottle. The exercise gear is gaining dust. Make time to smell the roses in the garden. Or get the exercise you need considering your lifestyle.

For me, it means walking 15 to 20 minutes in the morning and doing meditation for 30 minutes. For people who have sedentary lifestyles, an article gave this advice: If you can stand, don't sit; if you can walk, don't stand; if you can run, don't walk. Once a week, I also reward myself by swimming, my favorite sport.



Finally, I suggest having a heart to heart talk with your wife. Tell her what is important to you but also open your mind to what is important to her. Together, you can move forward to achieving the work life balance you so much desire.

I can also share with you the Rainbow Life formula that balances the different aspects in your life. It is one of Ancilla's bestseller training programs today. All the best. God bless you.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to explore new career directions

By Ricky B. Garcia

WORKING people have many career choices nowadays. But how do you know what's the right career path? Bam Aquino, Studio 23's Breakfast host, McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier and Single Search Philippines president Mary Ann Go discussed this difficult issue in the People at Work segment on Breakfast recently. Below is the gist of their discussion.

PaW: How do you assess if you need to change your career?

Mary Ann: Some time ago, I did some soul-searching and that was when I discovered what I wanted in life. I had the opportunity to explore another industry I know nothing of--from the consumer goods indus-

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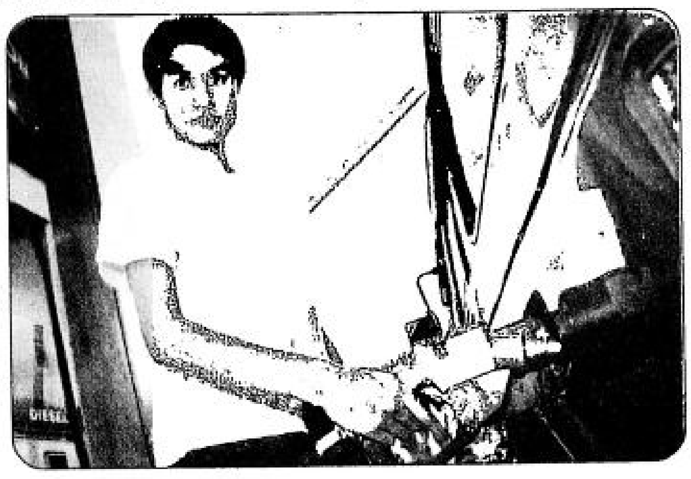
LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** ◎ *Chief of Correspondents* **Pam Pastor**



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2bU! goes job-hunting again

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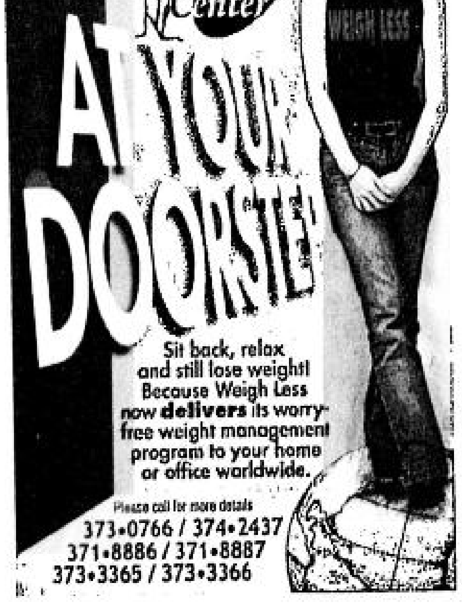
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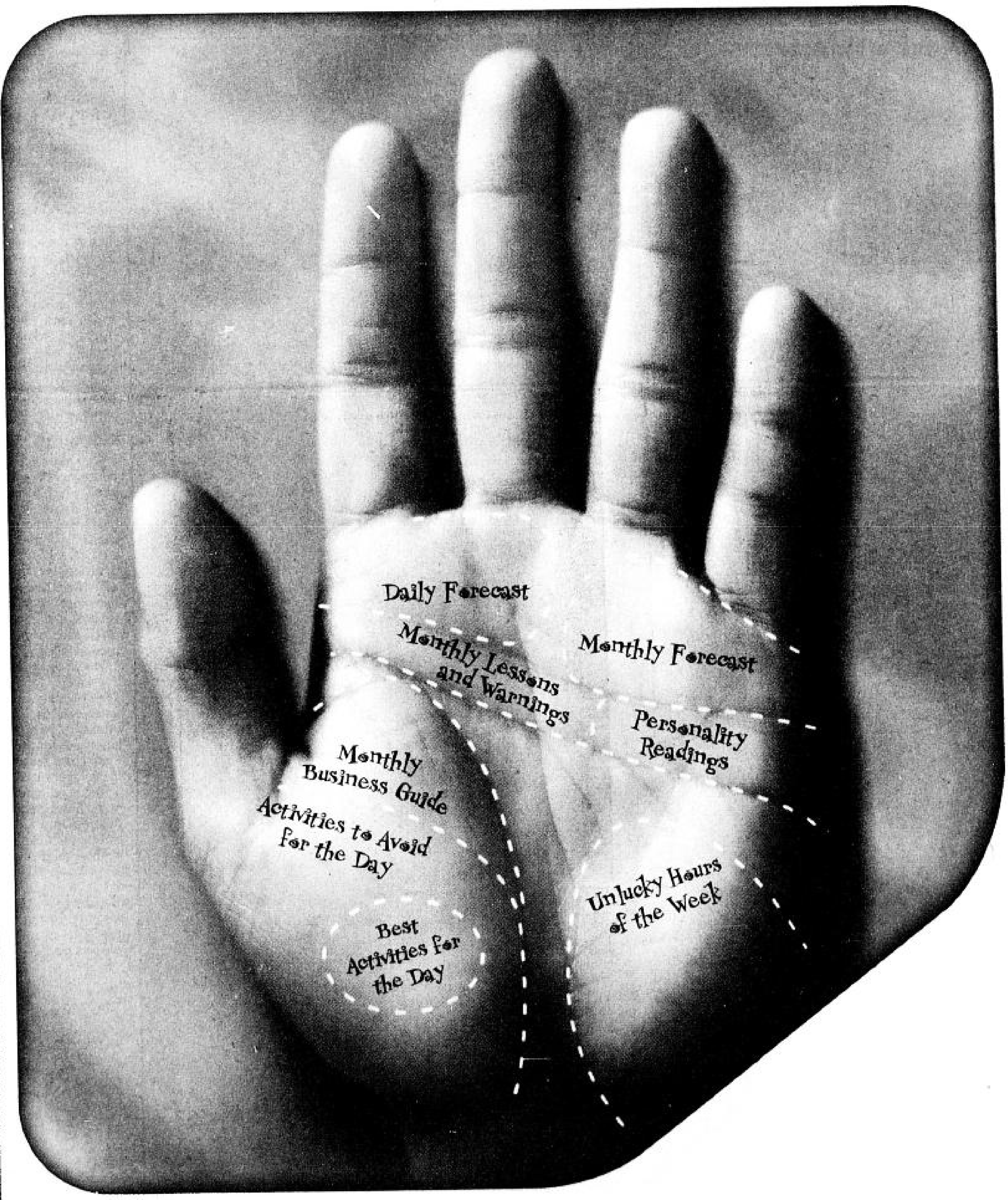
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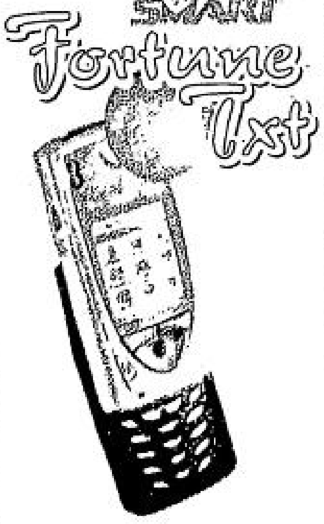

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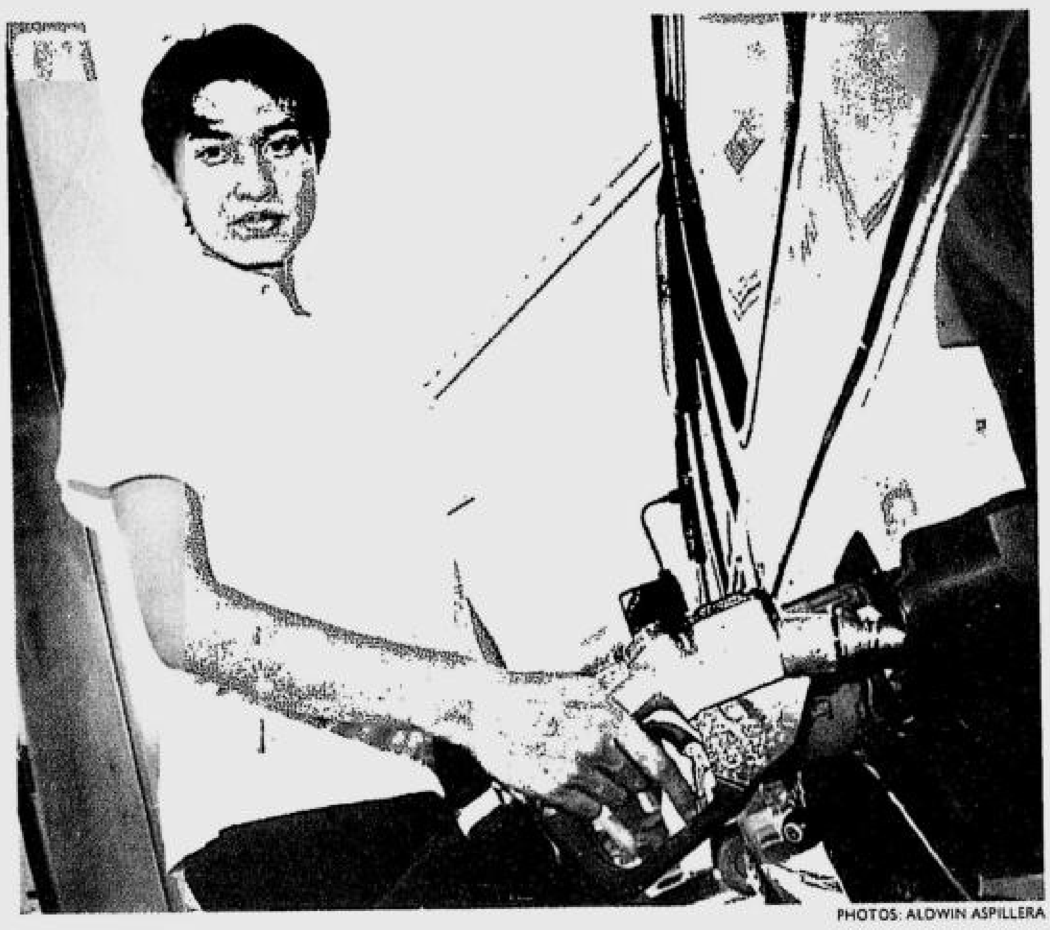


PHOTOS: ALOWIN ASPILLERA

Jason's back—and he's full of gas although he does not know how to pump air

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

"*PAKI-HANGINAN po* (Please fill with air)," a teenage guy told me as he tried to hand me what seemed like a flotation device. I could barely form the perfect plastic balloon; I certainly didn't think my lungs could fill up the floater with air. "*Hindi ko kaya* (I can't)," I told him. He shot me a really weird look, before another gas boy showed him the part of the station where tires could be filled with air. With an air pipe, not with lung air.

That was how clueless I was about all things mechanical. In high school, when we were asked to make a dustpan out of a metal sheet, I produced a razor-sharp "thing" that could seriously slice people. For a garden shovel, I produced a metallic cone. And for floaters, I had no sense to think of air pipes.

I am Jason and I'm your gas boy for today.

You suppose a gas boy's only concern is to fill up your car engine with fuel? That is not correct. He must have basic knowledge about the workings of a car since some customers have concerns other than having an empty gas tank filled up.

Gas boys also clean car windows and hoods. For a bonus, they can also chitchat with motorists about practically everything—from Maui Taylor to rising oil prices. Think of him as the closest thing to Martha Stewart (or an actual mechanic) who can aid you in your road trips.

In my case, my mechanical proficiency only allowed me to fill engines with fuel, nothing more. There was some really "small talk" though like, "Boss, *saan 'yung* restroom *nyo*? (Where's the restroom?)" or "*May* CR *ba dito*? (Is there a toilet here?)." I became the station's toilet director.

Gasoline or diesel?

The most important thing about being a gas boy is that you should know which fuel to put in the car.

My trainer Roy told me that the basic fuels for cars are gasoline and diesel. To determine which of these a car uses, he says, check the sound of the engine. "If it's noisy, it probably uses diesel," he explained. I then noted that jeepney drivers, in general, asked for diesel, while the really nice, smooth-sounding cars used gasoline.

However, there are exceptions. The Pajero, for example, requires diesel for its fuel. Obviously, it takes experience to figure those things out, so to be safe, I asked the customers for their fuel.

Roy also taught me how to use the computerized oil pumps: those box-shaped machines that determine how much fuel would be pumped into a vehicle. It wasn't hard at all. Customers usually told me how much they were spending for gas, say, P200. I just punched that amount, and the computer measured the corresponding number of liters that would be tapped out. The nozzle automatically stopped pumping fuel into the car once it had reached that amount, so no sweat. And yes, they're the same pumps we were all fascinated with as kids.

Impressing the kids

I actually became sentimental at one point of my pumping career. While I was doing this jeepney (okay, don't be so dirty), the passenger kids were really craning their neck just to get a view of the pump's LCD screen counting up the numbers. I tried to impress them by holding the nozzle smoothly as if it was the coolest thing ever. I got a kick out of that.

Like I said, I'm not good with things mechanical, so it was a challenge for me just to look for the vehicle's fuel tank and get the hose into it. It was not supposed to be hard at all, but I figured, these customers were in a hurry, and they needed their gas...fast!

Some drivers parked their cars in a way that the gas tank was on the other side of the vehicle. That required a lot of pulling and tugging on my part to get the hose and nozzle on that side.

Jeepneys, on the other hand, do not have similar makes, and so their tanks are differently located: Some are just beside the driver's seat, some on the passenger's seat at the front. Others have it all the way at the rear. I got panicky every time I couldn't locate them in five seconds. I know how exasperating it is for the passengers to wait in the gas station for long.

Nice biker

I guess it is because of familiarity that some customers just *mouth* the words to gas boys instead of actually *saying* them, as in the case of drivers who don't roll down their windows. I didn't exactly appreciate this, but I was the new one, so I had to adjust.

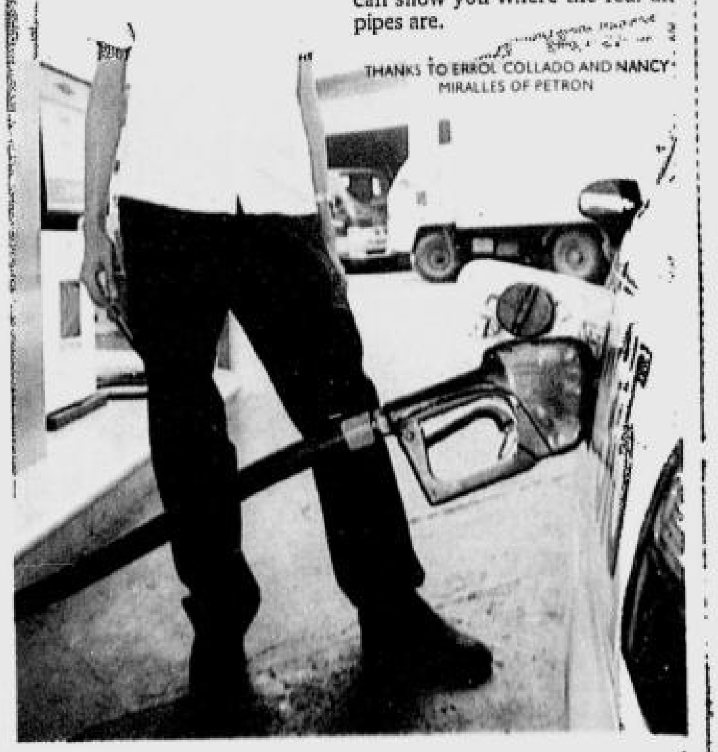
It took a lot of effort to comprehend them, though. In some cases, I had to ask them thrice before I understood what they were saying. However, there were nicer customers who got off their cars to stretch and make some small talk with the gas boys. Some even went as far as opening the gas tank themselves...

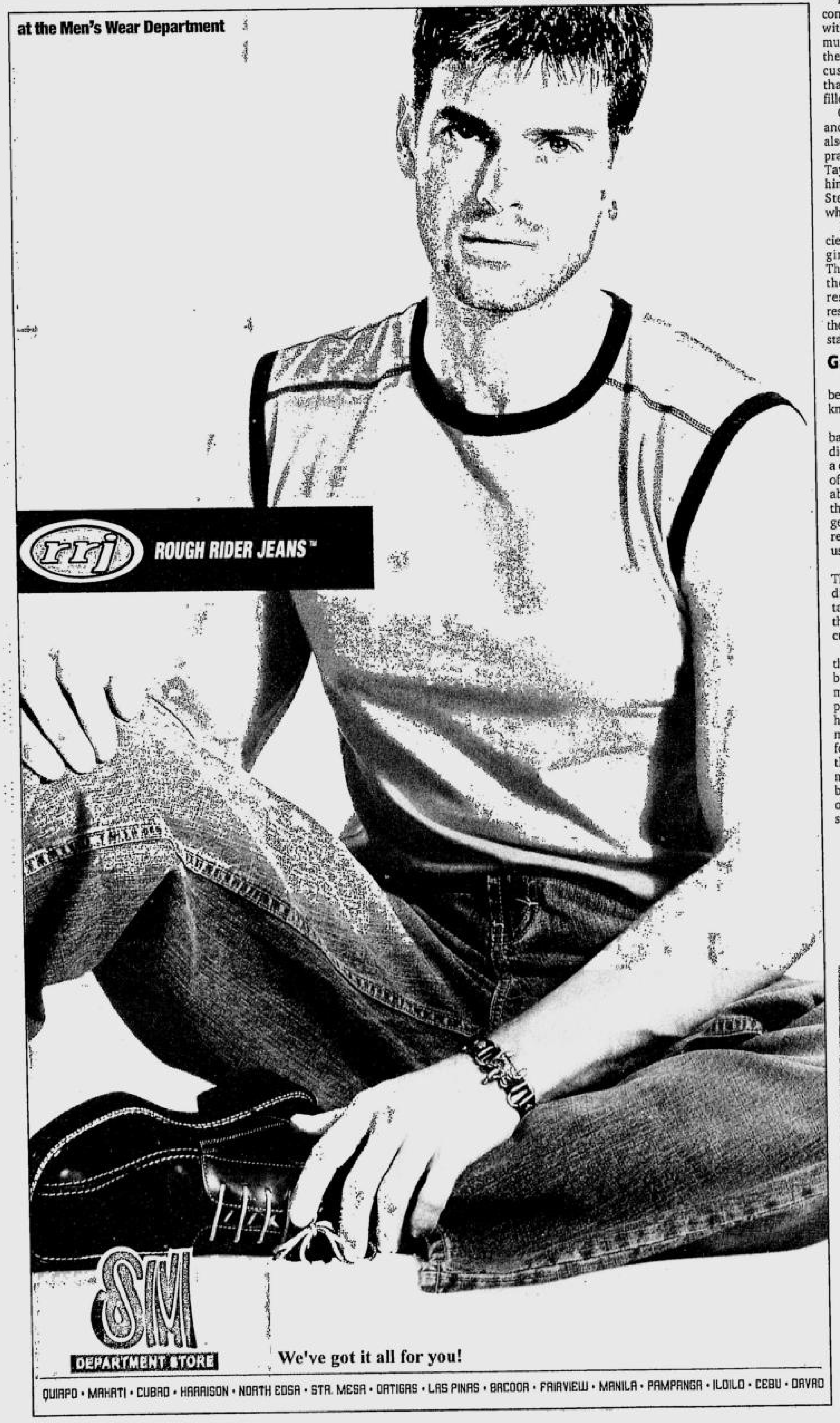
There was an incident wherein I was filling up a motorcycle whose gas tank was directly in front of the biker. Unfortunately, some of the gasoline overflowed, almost spilling over his crotch, but he was nice about it and told me to stop when I was apparently "over-wiping" his motorcycle. I certainly didn't want to ruin the gas station's good image.

Roy said they worked eight hours a day with breaks in between. I asked if there were other things that gas boys did, like fix a car maybe, but he said the station had mechanics for that.

Besides, with the gas boys' courtesy and good manners, getting your tank full is enough. And they can show you where the real air pipes are.

THANKS TO ERROL COLLADO AND NANCY MIRALLES OF PETRON





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The 2 Treatments must be availed of by the same person.
SEPT. 23 - OCT. 31, 2002

Bioessence
skin • slimming • spa
facialhaus
FACIAL AND PEEL CENTER

WEST AVE.:
68 Carvel Bldg. West Ave., Q.C.
371-2931 / 372-2649

SM FAIRVIEW:
Lower G/F, SM Fairview
419-7549 / 419-7552

SM MEGAMALL:
5/F Bldg. 2, SM Megamall
634-3310 / 634-3311

GREENBELT:
G/F LPL Tower Condominium
112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village
813-3601 / 813-3617

SM SOUTHMALL:
Unit 10 Lower G/F
SM Southmall, Las Piñas
806-5951 / 806-5943

GREENHILLS: NOW OPEN
15 & 16 G/F
Shoppesville Arcade
Greenhills Shopping Center
Ortigas
722-0658 / 722-0712

CAINTA:
3rd Level, Phase 3
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
681-7339 / 681-5310

LAS PIÑAS:
Stop Bell, Pamplona Park
Zapote Road, Las Piñas City
872-2341 / 873-1326

SM BACOOR:
Lower G/F, SM Bacoor
(046) 502-3568
(046) 571-1536

PAMPANGA:
Queensland Commercial Plaza
Maligaya Village, San Fernando
Pampanga
(045) 961-1876
(045) 961-1887

LIPA:
2/F Fiesta World Mall
Marauoy, Lipa City
(043) 404-1726
(043) 404-1727

DAVAO:
Circumferential Rd.
Marfori Heights, Davao City
(082) 226-2305
(082) 224-0361

ZAMBOANGA:
Nuñez St., Zamboanga City
(062) 992-3002
(062) 992-6388 to 89

CAINTA:
G/F Phase 2 Sta Lucia, East Mall
646-0450 / 645-6766

MAKATI:
2/F Gold Crest Bldg.
Makati Commercial Complex
812-8552 / 817-2826

BINONDO:
905 State Investment Center
Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
242-0621 / 242-2631

ANGELES:
2/F BPI Arcade, Nepomart
Angeles City
(045) 887-0391 / (045) 323-5952

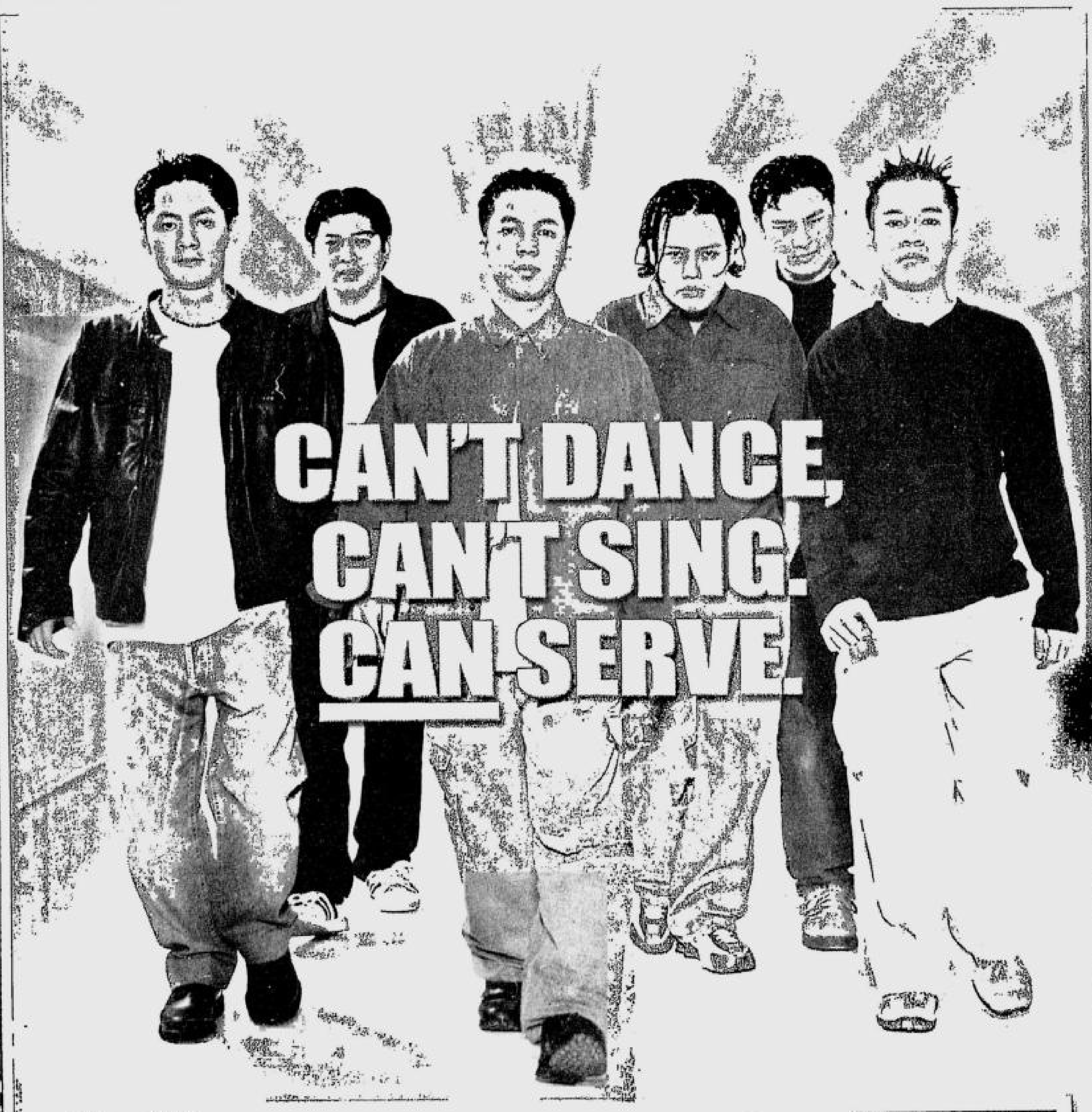
TARLAC:
Unit 2&3,2/F, Anita Bldg.,Zamora St.
San Roque, Tarlac City
(045) 982-5289 / (045) 800-0541

HOTLINE: 410-7097

AFFILIATE CLINIC: SBE Greenhills
727-2117 • 722-6765
Rm. 203 Richbelt Tower, Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan

Mall Hours: 10AM-9PM Clinic Hours: 8AM-9PM Open on Sundays

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3834 Series of 2002


CAN'T DANCE,
CAN'T SING.
CAN SERVE.

Hindi kailangang sumayaw, kumanta, o umarte para mag-qualify
sa Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations or TAYO.
Maglingkod lang sa inyong community, oks na.
May grant na P50,000 para sa inyong next project.

In cooperation with: Foundation for Governance and Convergence, (FGC) Inc.
National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) • Center for Local Governance, Research and Development

MIRANT
Mirant Philippines Foundation

TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS
TAYO

Ang "Search for Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations" ay nais kumilala at magbigay gantimpala sa mga grupo ng young Filipinos na may iba't ibang contribution para sa ikauunlad ng lipunan. Sa ganitong pagkilala, mas napapasigla ang mga outstanding youth organizations, clubs at societies para ipagpatuloy ang kanilang programa na well-crafted, highly applicable at effective.

Qualifications
Bukas ang Search sa mga grupo na may at least fifteen (15) Filipino members from 15 to 30 years of age. Ang magiging basis sa pag-judge ng organization ay ang kanilang recent project o program, na dapat may impact sa komunidad at nagpapakita na ang youth sector ay committed sa nation-building. Ang mga projects na nasimulan nung January 2002 ay puedeng mag-qualify. Lahat ng project entries ay dapat natapos sa deadline ng submission of requirements. Kung ang project ay on-going, dapat ang major portion nito ay nagawa na by December 30, 2002.

Categories
- Information Technology
- Hubog-Kakayanan at Edukasyon (Capability-Building and Education)
- Kultura at Sining (Culture and the Arts)
- Komunikasyon at Media (Communications and Media)
- Pampamayanang Kaunlaran (Community Development)
- Pampublikong Kalusugan (Public Health)
- Pangangalaga sa Kalikasan (Environmental Protection and Conservation)
- Pangkabuhayan (Business, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship)

General Criteria
1) Impact of Project to the Local Community *(pagpapabuti ng kita, kalinisan at kaalaman, etc)*
2) Social Mobilization *(pagkakaisang pagtulong ng komunidad, lalo na ng youth sector sa pagplano, paggawa at pag-evaluate ng projects)*
3) Innovativeness *(paggamit ng bagong technologies, products at services at ang pagtaguyod ng mga materyales na sariling atin [indigenous materials])*
4) Sustainability and Probability of Duplication

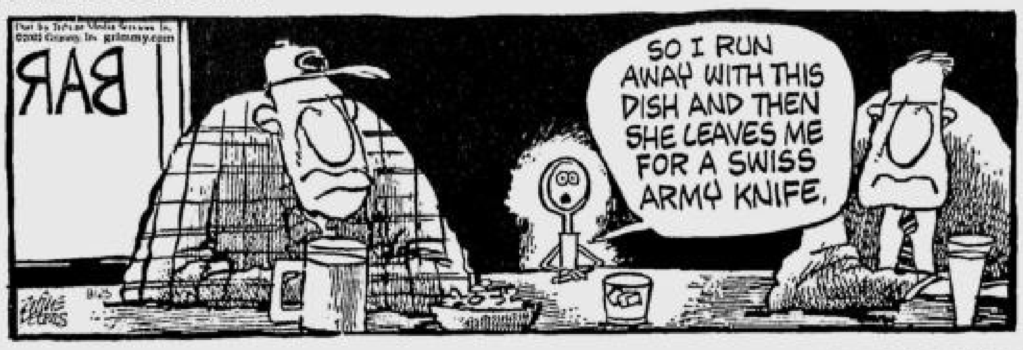
Prizes
- Plaques of Commendation
- Cash Awards (worth P50,000 each)
- Special awards will also be given to Youth-Serving Institutions, or organizations whose primary objectives, programs and projects are youth-related.

For further inquiries, pumunta sa
TAYO Secretariat, National Youth Commission,
4/F Bookman Building, #373 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City o tumawag sa (63-2) 781-1613,
749-9404, 749-9401, 781-1163.

See posters for details.

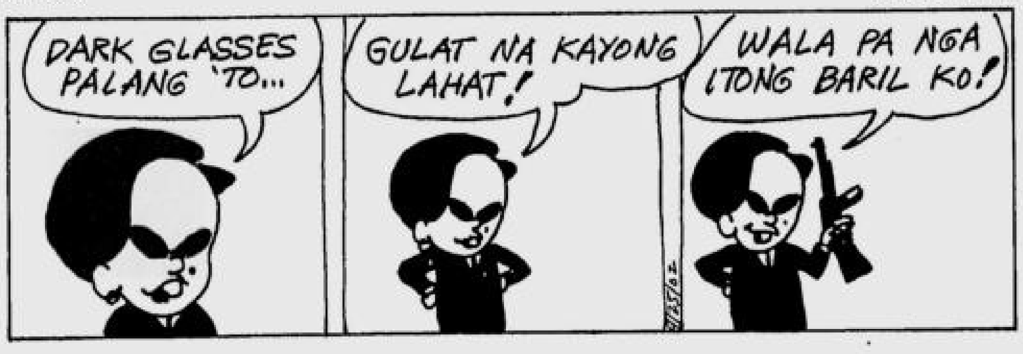
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
BAR
SO I RUN AWAY WITH THIS DISH AND THEN SHE LEAVES ME FOR A SWISS ARMY KNIFE.

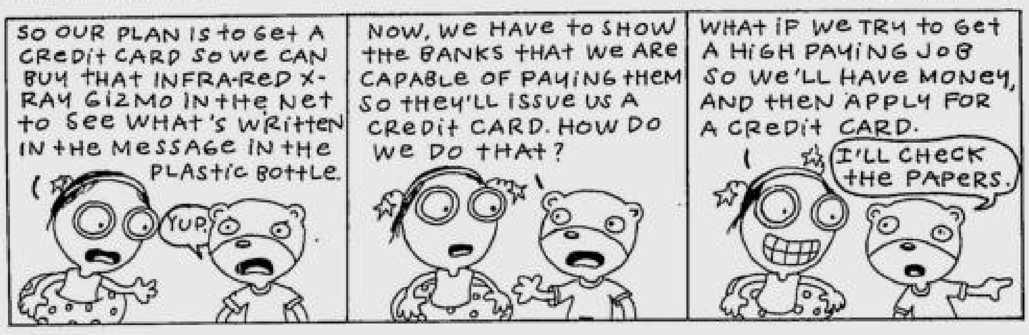
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DARK GLASSES PALANG 'TO...
GULAT NA KAYONG LAHAT!
WALA PA NGA (TONG BARIL KO!

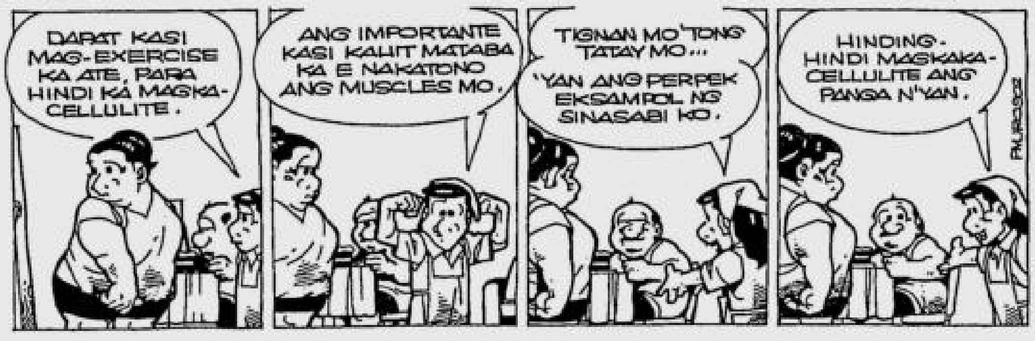
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO OUR PLAN IS to Get A CREDit CARD SO WE CAN BUY tHAT INFRA-RED X-RAY GIZMO IN tHE Net to See WHAT'S WRitten IN tHE MESSAGE IN tHE PLAStic BOttLE.
YUP.
NOW, WE HAVE to SHOW tHE BANKS tHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING tHEM SO tHEY'LL ISSUE US A CREDit CARD. HOW DO WE DO tHAT?
WHAT IF WE TRY to Get A HIGH PAYING JOB SO WE'LL HAVE MONEY, AND tHEN APPLY FOR A CREDit CARD.
I'LL CHECK tHE PAPERS.

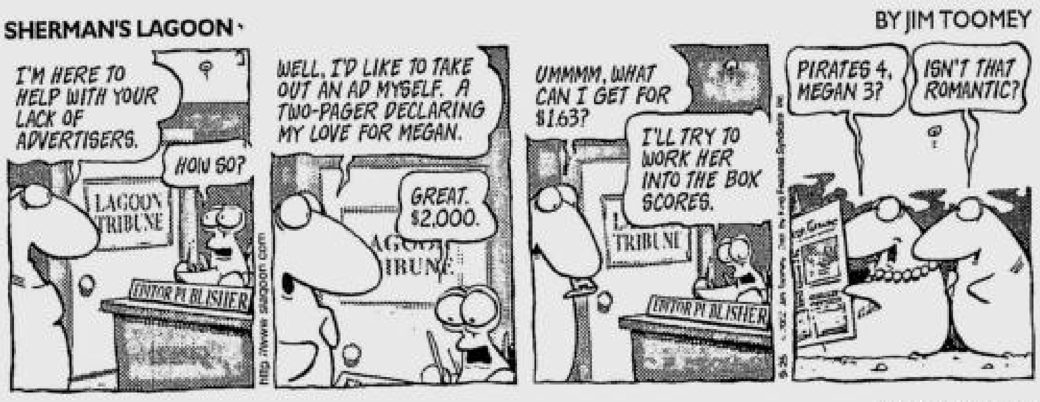
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT KASI MAG-EXERCISE KA ATE, PARA HINDI KA MAGKA-CELLULITE.
ANG IMPORTANTE KASI KAHIT MATABA KA E NAKATONO ANG MUSCLES MO.
TIGNAN MO 'TONG TATAY MO...
'YAN ANG PERPEK EKSAMPOL NG SINASABI KO.
HINDING-HINDI MAGKAKA-CELLULITE ANG PANGA N'YAN.
P.M.JR2002

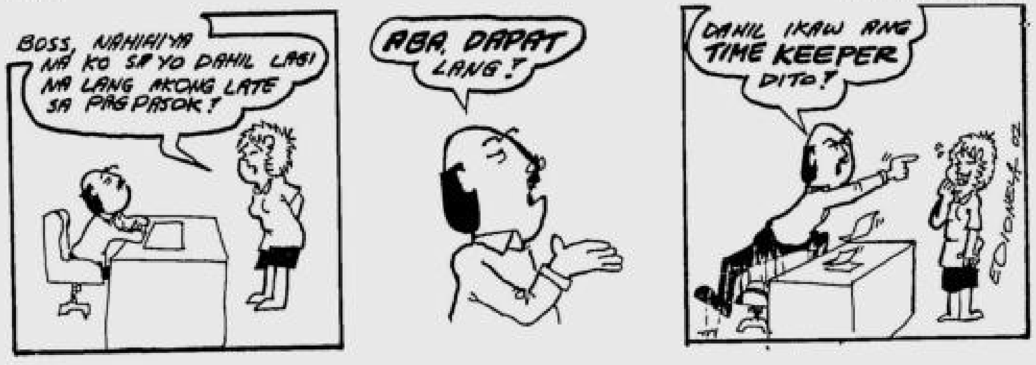
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'M HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR LACK OF ADVERTISERS.
HOW SO?
LAGOON TRIBUNE
EDITOR PUBLISHER
WELL, I'D LIKE TO TAKE OUT AN AD MYSELF. A TWO-PAGER DECLARING MY LOVE FOR MEGAN.
GREAT. $2,000.
http://www.slagoon.com
UMMMM, WHAT CAN I GET FOR $1.63?
I'LL TRY TO WORK HER INTO THE BOX SCORES.
PIRATES 4, MEGAN 3?
ISN'T THAT ROMANTIC?

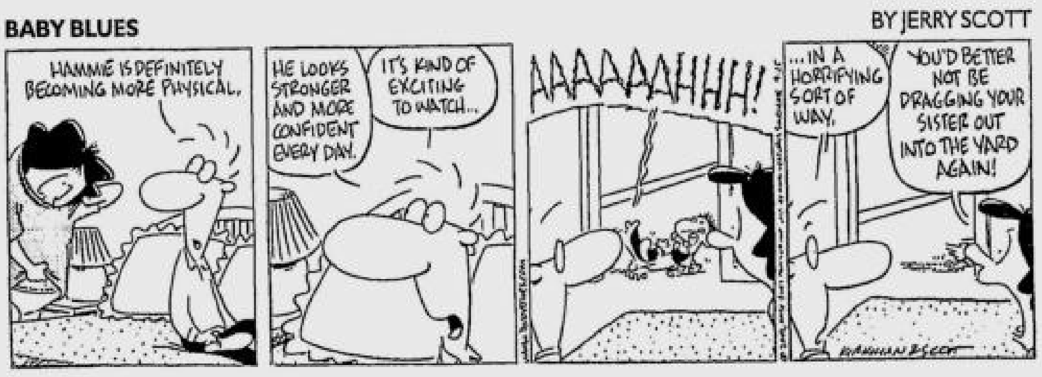
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BOSS, NAHIHIYA NA KO SA YO DAHIL LAGI NA LANG AKONG LATE SA PAGPASOK!
ABA, DAPAT LANG!
DAHIL IKAW ANG TIME KEEPER DITO!
EDIONELA 02

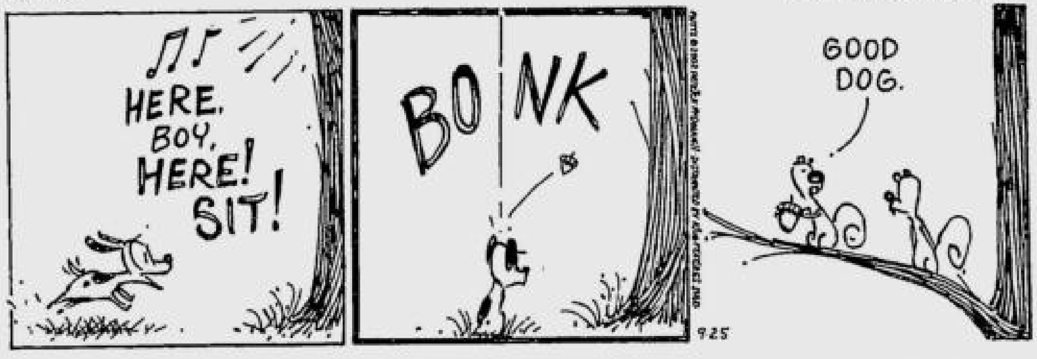
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE IS DEFINITELY BECOMING MORE PHYSICAL.
HE LOOKS STRONGER AND MORE CONFIDENT EVERY DAY.
IT'S KIND OF EXCITING TO WATCH...
AAAAAAHHH!
...IN A HORRIFYING SORT OF WAY.
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE DRAGGING YOUR SISTER OUT INTO THE YARD AGAIN!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HERE. BOY, HERE! SIT!
BONK
GOOD DOG.
9.25

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Will Smith, Heather Locklear, Barbara Walters, Michael Douglas

Happy Birthday: You will have the energy and the fortitude to do whatever you set your mind to this year. You will find yourself faced with a situation that will require you to be disciplined, making the right choices even if it isn't exactly what you had in mind. Set goals that are in reach and be honest with yourself about your capabilities. Your numbers are 3, 7, 22, 29, 34, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't allow someone to take advantage of you. Remember that you can't be taken advantage of if you don't allow it. Arguments over financial concerns will be stressful. A relative may be a burden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will find it difficult to be objective, especially when dealing with emotional partners. You must be extremely affectionate if you wish to keep the peace and avoid drastic altercations in your relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect to suffer from minor health problems if you have pushed yourself to the limit. You need to spend the day taking care of your own needs. Do not talk too much about your future intentions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in a group that has an interest in the youth in your community. Your input will be valuable and you should be able to make some new friends at the same time. Relationships can be formed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find it hard to get your point across today. Be professional and don't let your frustration show. Don't be too generous with children. Spoiling will not be the answer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen to people who have something important to say to you today. You will gain knowledge and be able to put together some good ideas. You should consider attending a seminar or signing up for a course.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have to take care of matters for an older member of your family. Don't let this person become a burden. Do what is necessary quickly and get back to taking care of your own business.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stay calm, especially when dealing with your partner or someone you are deeply interested in. This person may put you through an emotional wringer; refuse to become upset.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on work and take a short business trip if it will help you seal a deal. Eat properly and leave yourself enough time at the end of the day to relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get out with friends today and do something challenging and compelling. Competitive sports will take the edge off any worries you might have. Don't be too eager to part with your cash.

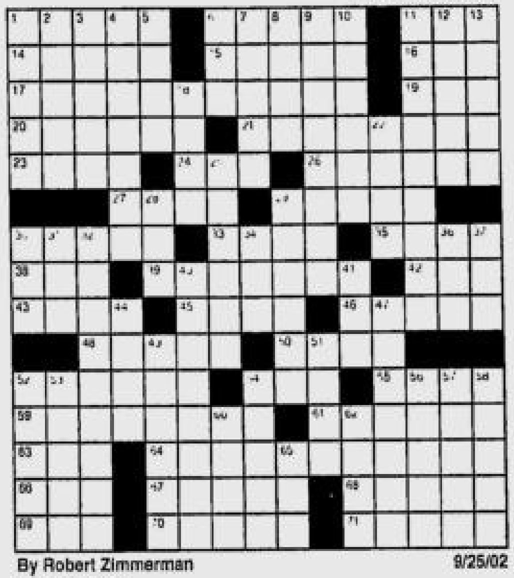
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may find it difficult to please the people closest to you. Take time out to do things for yourself. Expand on a creative idea that you have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan a vacation. Some delays may occur today if you have to travel somewhere. Be sure to have your directions straight before you leave.

Birthday Baby: You will be a well-rounded person who is well-liked. You will show your strength physically. You will think wisely and will execute whatever you do with great precision, honesty and thought.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

9/25/02

ACROSS
1 Horn sounds
6 Squeeze painfully
11 Scot's cap
14 Anchor position
15 Capture
16 Roswell, NM sighting
17 Place for a Mexico City stroll
19 Simpson trial judge
20 Different: pref.
21 Merchant
23 Payphone aperture
24 WWII landing craft
26 River frolickers
27 Fine powder
29 Scornful look
30 Binge
33 Meg of the movies
35 Isinglass
38 Draft choice
39 Swindled
42 Period of many years
43 Valhalla assemblage
45 Solemn vow
46 Bean or Welles
48 __ and Gomorrah
50 Outer limit
52 Spangle
54 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
55 Bivouac
59 Film coating
61 Taiwan capital
63 Narcs' grp.
64 Place for a New York City stroll
66 Schedule abbr.
67 Old Roman port
68 Brink
69 Louis or Carrie
70 Shoulder wrap
71 Fall flower

DOWN
1 Musical family
2 Lucy's landlady
3 Muse of poetry
4 Lab tube
5 Side track
6 Coastal hrs.
7 Motionless
8 Scruff
9 Curtain material
10 Goddess of the moon
11 Place for a Paris stroll
12 Later on
13 Othello and others
18 Lounge around
22 News bit
25 Piercing cry
28 J. J. Pershing's troops
29 Tammany bigwig
30 Droop
31 Arafat's grp.
32 Place for a Moscow stroll
34 Thus far
36 Bill and __
37 Author Beattie
40 Most ridiculous
41 Collie or corgi
44 Aretha's style
47 Cook's file
49 Night spots
51 Research results
52 City on the Meuse
53 Fine-grained corundum
54 Prior to
56 Asunder
57 Commingle
58 Penny-pincher
60 Fully aware of
62 Thomas __ Edison
65 __ Dawn Chong

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	M	S	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	J	A	R	S
R	I	O	T	■	C	A	R	O	N	■	A	L	E	E
A	C	R	E	■	A	N	G	S	T	■	C	U	B	E
B	E	N	I	G	N	I	■	H	A	C	K	M	A	N
■	■	■	G	E	T	S	■	■	N	O	S	■	■	■
H	O	M	E	L	Y	■	S	I	G	N	O	R	E	T
A	P	A	R	T	■	P	A	L	L	■	N	E	V	A
S	E	N	■	■	G	A	B	L	E	■	■	M	I	X
P	R	O	M	■	A	S	I	S	■	A	P	A	C	E
S	A	R	A	N	D	O	N	■	P	L	A	N	T	S
■	■	■	G	A	G	■	■	O	R	A	L	■	■	■
B	R	Y	N	N	E	R	■	P	O	I	T	I	E	R
L	A	V	A	■	T	O	X	I	N	■	R	O	M	E
E	V	E	N	■	R	U	I	N	G	■	O	T	I	S
D	E	S	I	■	Y	E	S	E	S	■	W	A	T	T

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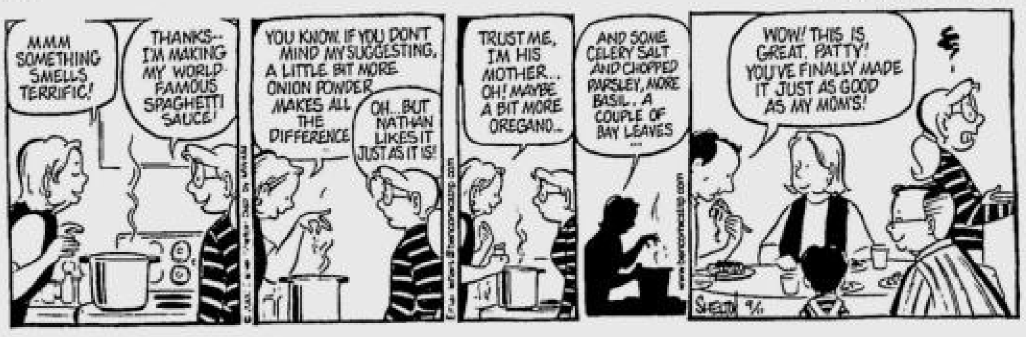
9/25/02

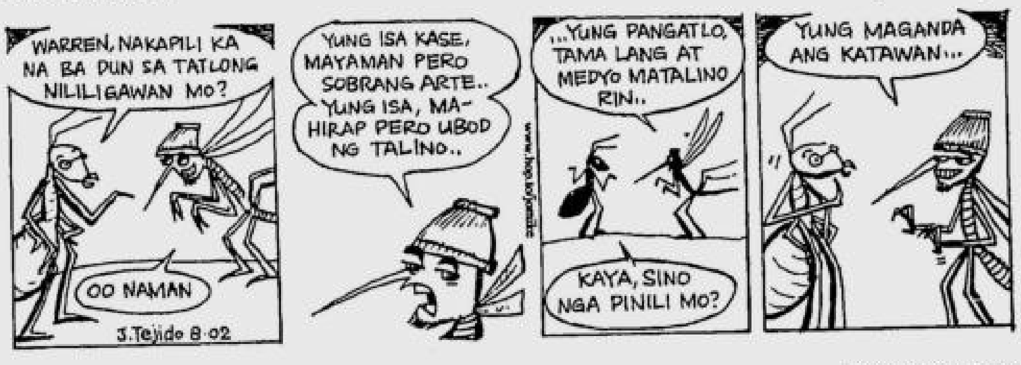
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MMM SOMETHING SMELLS TERRIFIC!
THANKS-- I'M MAKING MY WORLD-FAMOUS SPAGHETTI SAUCE!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SUGGESTING, A LITTLE BIT MORE ONION POWDER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE...
OH...BUT NATHAN LIKES IT JUST AS IT IS!
TRUST ME, I'M HIS MOTHER... OH! MAYBE A BIT MORE OREGANO...
AND SOME CELERY SALT AND CHOPPED PARSLEY, MORE BASIL.. A COUPLE OF BAY LEAVES...
WOW! THIS IS GREAT, PATTY! YOU'VE FINALLY MADE IT JUST AS GOOD AS MY MOM'S!
SHELTON

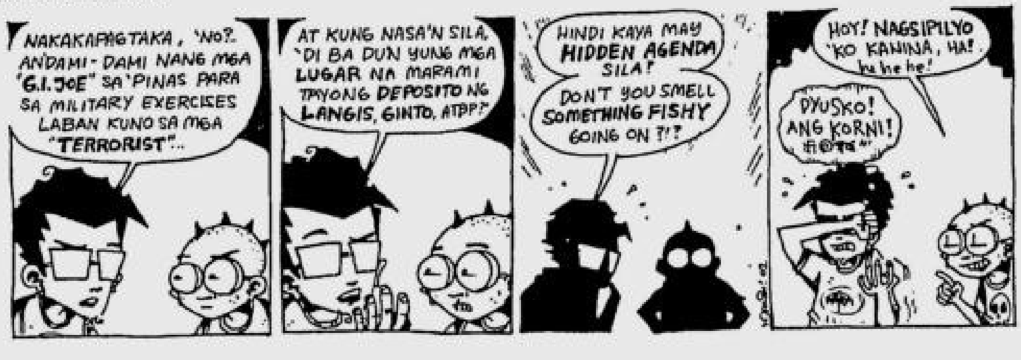
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WARREN, NAKAPILI KA NA BA DUN SA TATLONG NILILIGAWAN MO?
OO NAMAN
J.Tejido 8-02
YUNG ISA KASE, MAYAMAN PERO SOBRANG ARTE.. YUNG ISA, MA-HIRAP PERO UBOD NG TALINO..
...YUNG PANGATLO, TAMA LANG AT MEDYO MATALINO RIN..
KAYA, SINO NGA PINILI MO?
YUNG MAGANDA ANG KATAWAN...

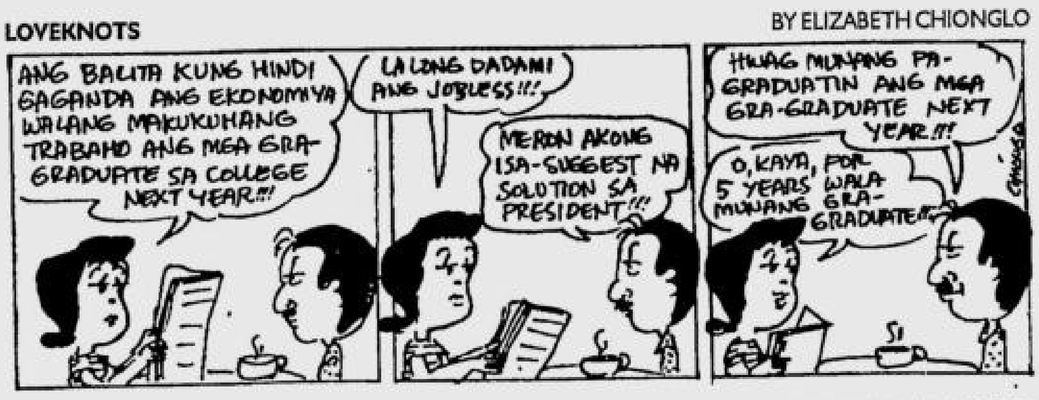
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


NAKAKAPAGTAKA, 'NO?. ANDAMI-DAMI NANG MGA "G.I. JOE" SA 'PINAS PARA SA MILITARY EXERCISES LABAN KUNO SA MGA "TERRORIST"..
AT KUNG NASA'N SILA, 'DI BA DUN YUNG MGA LUGAR NA MARAMI TAYONG DEPOSITO NG LANGIS, GINTO, ATBP?
HINDI KAYA MAY HIDDEN AGENDA SILA?
DON'T YOU SMELL SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON ?!?
HOY! NAGSIPILYO 'KO KANINA, HA! he he he!
DYUSKO! ANG KORNI!

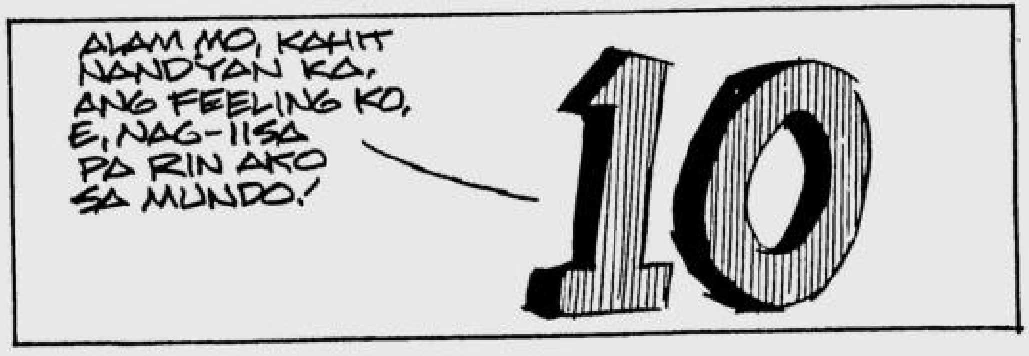
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG BALITA KUNG HINDI GAGANDA ANG EKONOMIYA WALANG MAKUKUHANG TRABAHO ANG MGA GRA-GRADUATE SA COLLEGE NEXT YEAR!!!
LALONG DADAMI ANG JOBLESS!!!
MERON AKONG ISA-SUGGEST NA SOLUTION SA PRESIDENT!!!
HWAG MUNANG PA-GRADUATIN ANG MGA GRA-GRADUATE NEXT YEAR!!!
O, KAYA, FOR 5 YEARS WALA MUNANG GRA-GRADUATE!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ALAM MO, KAHIT NANDYAN KA, ANG FEELING KO, E, NAG-IISA PA RIN AKO SA MUNDO!
10

OAKLEY, maker of technologically advanced eyewear, introduces the latest in its line of footwear that adapts and optimizes performance and foot comfort. The Oakley Teeth combines two specially formulated tread materials that achieve the widest possible range of traction. The tread perimeter is studded with high durometer outsole for biting into loose terrain, while low durometer outsole gnash on smooth surfaces. For optimized cushioning, the Oakley Teeth is fitted with a High G last that offers superior shock absorption and heel retention plus an advanced EVA midsole for resilient shock absorption.

Store holds anniversary sale

VISEVERSA is holding a sale to celebrate its 13th anniversary. Get 13-percent off on purchases of all regular items until Oct. 15.

Owned by designer Rina Go, Viseversa specializes in a wide range of mix and match outfits for career women, students and other fashionable women. Viseversa uses contemporary colors like camel and mauve with black, white and beige in styles that are chic and professional.

Trendy bags and accessories are also available.

Viseversa branches are located at SM Megamall, Rustan's Makati, Alabang, Cubao, Harrison Plaza and Shangri-La.

New racquets give more power, control

PRINCE, the leader in racquet sports innovation, has developed a new line that gives players more power, control and comfort in their games.

Sports Resources Inc. (SRI), exclusive distributor of Prince racquets in the country, introduces three new racquets: More Dominant, More Thunder and More Game. The new models have technologically advanced features designed to meet the needs of both tennis fans and amateur/professional players.

The new Prince series offers the latest breakthrough design in tennis racquet technology: no drilling. Holes and grommets in the racquet frame have been eliminated and two racquet halves are molded together to create Prince's patented PowerLock Construction. The ergonomic design accounts for 15 percent more structural rigidity, because of the stiffer and stronger frame.

Like all other Prince models, the new racquets have a sleek design, and are made from the finest material. They have distinct frames constructed of GraphitExtreme, Tungsten, Titanium-Copper and Carbon.

Prince's More Performance racquets are available at Toby's Sports, Chris Sports, Royal Sporting House, Manila Polo Club, JB Makati and Olympic Village. Call Carmela Young at 671-9765/1540.

Farine Lactee Nestlé, 1895

Nestlé Cerelac, 1977

The first solid food trusted by mothers now goes by the name Nestlé Infant Cereal.

From the time the world's first infant cereal became available in the Philippines, mothers have depended on Nestlé for proper nutrition of weaning babies.

After all, Swiss founder Henri Nestlé created the revolutionary baby food in 1865 to save children in Europe from malnutrition.

Since then, the fortified baby food has undergone innovations from the Nestlé Research Center.

It now has Prebio' for instance, or natural soluble fibers that boost the immune system and improve digestive health.

It's also the only baby food with the exclusive complete Sangkap Pinoy seal from the Department of Health.

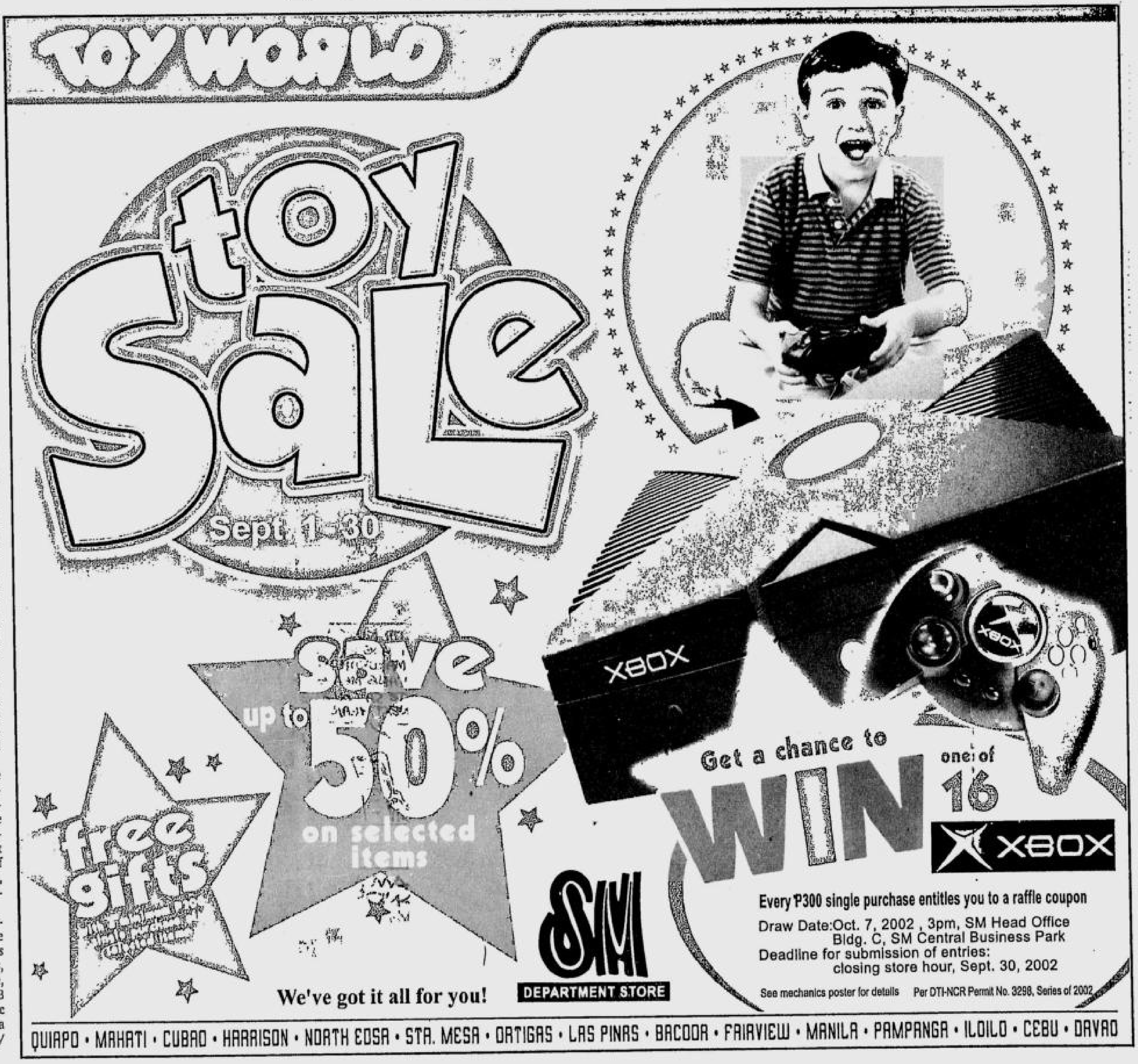
Now available in Wheat + Banana + Milk, Wheat + Milk, Rice Mixed Vegetables, Rice, Brown Rice + Milk and Green Monggo

Nestlé Infant Cereal
Baby's First Solid Food

Nestlé
Wheat + Banana + Milk
Prebio
150g

Nestlé Infant Cereal, 2002

Nestlé
NUTRITION


TOY WORLD
toy Sale
Sept. 1-30
save up to 50% on selected items
free gifts
XBOX
Get a chance to WIN one of 16 XBOX

We've got it all for you!

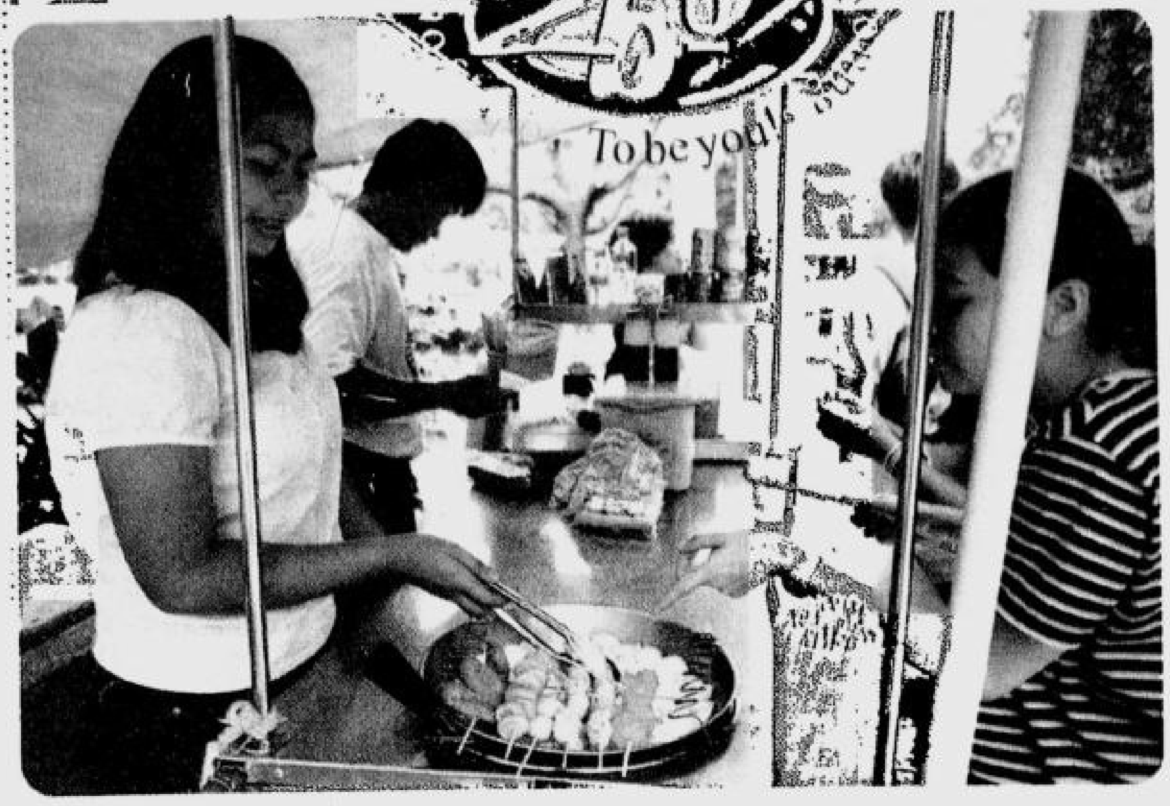
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Every ₱300 single purchase entitles you to a raffle coupon

Draw Date:Oct. 7, 2002 , 3pm, SM Head Office
Bldg. C, SM Central Business Park
Deadline for submission of entries:
closing store hour, Sept. 30, 2002

See mechanics poster for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3298, Series of 2002

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO



Making 'tusok-tusok' the fishballs

'I became the most beautiful fishball vendor in the Philippines but I realized I should have opted for looking the part'

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

"HEY! Hurry *na*! I want to make *tusok-tusok* some fishballs before my driver picks me up!" I remembered one annoying *colegiala* say as I waited to buy my own fishballs at the University of the Philippines. The fishball vendor just shook her head in irritation. It was a bit funny but very much annoying. I just laughed and completely forgot about it.

After the cancellation of my two previous assignments for our jobs issue, I remembered Little Ms Colegiala and decided I wanted to experience being a fishball vendor.

I first discovered the taste of fishballs toward the end of my short stint as a student in Miriam College. They were cooked in the cafeteria, safe from the harmful bacteria that my parents feared were in the food sold by roadside vendors. The fishballs looked pretty safe. When I transferred to the UP this year, I said goodbye to my beloved fishballs and said hello to chicken balls, shrimp balls, squid balls, squid rolls and *kwek-kwek*.

But there is a popular fishball stall in the UP located between the right wing of Palma Hall and the Faculty Center. Practically everyone in the area knew Ate Elvie and Kuya Mer, husband and wife who have been selling fishballs for a long, long time. I asked them if I could be vendor for a day.

Showing off

As the "F" day (fishball day) drew near, I texted all my UP friends to drop by at the stall so I could show off my fishball cooking abilities. Well, that was the plan.

I wanted to be dressed for the part, with apron and all, but a friend suggested I should be the most beautiful fishball vendor in the Philippines. So I wore my newest top, my favorite bootlegs and, of course, my very lucky boots. I did become the most beautiful fishball vendor in the Philippines but I found later out that I should have opted for looking the part.

Kuya Mer asked as I bravely faced a big pan full of hot, as in really hot, oil, "*Bakit ka naman naparusahan ng ganito?*" I smiled and said in a trembling voice, "For experience *po*." He then told me what I should know—10 pieces of fishballs for P5, four squid balls for P10, four chicken balls for 10, three pieces of *kikiam* for P10, and five pieces of *kwek-kwek* for P10.

It was the first time I saw squid rolls sold for P10 for every five pieces. "I'll taste you later," I said to myself wondering how the squid rolls tasted even as I braced myself to cope with the hot oil.

Hot, hot, hot!

"*Dahan-dahan lang ang paglalagay sa mantika, baka kasi matalsikan ka!*" Kuya Mer reminded me. I nodded and swallowed hard as he told me how he would get splattered with hot oil when cooking the fishballs. I got the message: the oil must be really, really hot.

He first showed me how to cook the fishballs properly. It may have looked easy but it was not. Some customers liked them soft while others liked them really toasted and crunchy.

Lesson 1: Always give the customers what they want. If they want the balls soft, give them soft. If they prefer dark and crunchy, give them the hard, toasted ones. Lesson 2: Don't put the balls on the paper plates immediately. Always drain the oil. The last and final lesson: Serve with a smile. "*Mas masaya kapag laging nakangiti*," Kuya Mer said with, well, a smile.

He served the first customers as I prepared to attend to the next ones. When he had served his last customer, he asked, "*Talaga bang kailangan mong gawin 'to?*" I looked at him and the hot pan of oil (I have developed a sudden fear of doing the job) and said, "*Opo. Kaya ko naman po, eh.*"

The first order I took was for a stick of chicken balls. It was fairly easy. Four pieces of chicken balls were cooked in a zip. I carefully drained the excess oil and cheerfully served them to the waiting customer, who gave me a really weird look. He must have been wondering why I was the one cooking. My friend Maureen, who advised me to dress up, said, "*Masa*-shock *ang mga tao sa napakagandang* fishball vendor *na tulad mo*!" I guess she was right! He wouldn't have stared otherwise.

I started cooking at around 10 a.m., by 11:30 I was already sweating like a pig. So much for dressing up. Man, it was hot! I was sweaty and I started to smell like the balls. My feet were killing me, thanks to my very lucky boots!

By this time, I was already making a lot of mistakes. I was putting only nine pieces of fishballs instead of 10. One time I forgot to take the stick from a serving of *kwek-kwek*. Kuya Mer told me to stop and take a breather.

All my friends came over to give me moral support and taste the balls I was cooking. Some asked me to treat them to a few sticks. I gave in. Others just came to see me as a fishball vendor. But they all wished me luck.

At the end of my stint, I found that the simplest things can be learned just by observing other people. How a customer liked his fishballs or how many *kwek-kwek* or squid balls he could eat said a lot about that person. I also realized that one way or the other, we affect the people we meet, that we are all connected.

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IRON LADY. The author gets a taste of flattening rough surfaces.

Maid-to-order for a day

By Melissa Telan, *2bU! Correspondent*

I WAS in two minds whether or not to accept a last minute assignment to pinch-hit for another 2bU! correspondent who was supposed to work as a maid for a day. On one hand, I wanted to do it but, on the other, I wasn't sure I could.

I was sure I'd be a terrible maid. I knew nil about ironing, never tried washing clothes and I couldn't cook to save my life. Worse, I didn't have time to learn those chores because the assignment was due the following day. I could easily wreck someone's place with my ineptness.

But then, I thought that perhaps it was time that I learned housekeeping tasks—I'd just be extra careful not to break or burn anything. Besides, my boss for the day would be bubbly and eccentric 2bU! columnist Tim Yap, so maybe my crash course as a maid would turn out to be rather fun. I decided to take the job.

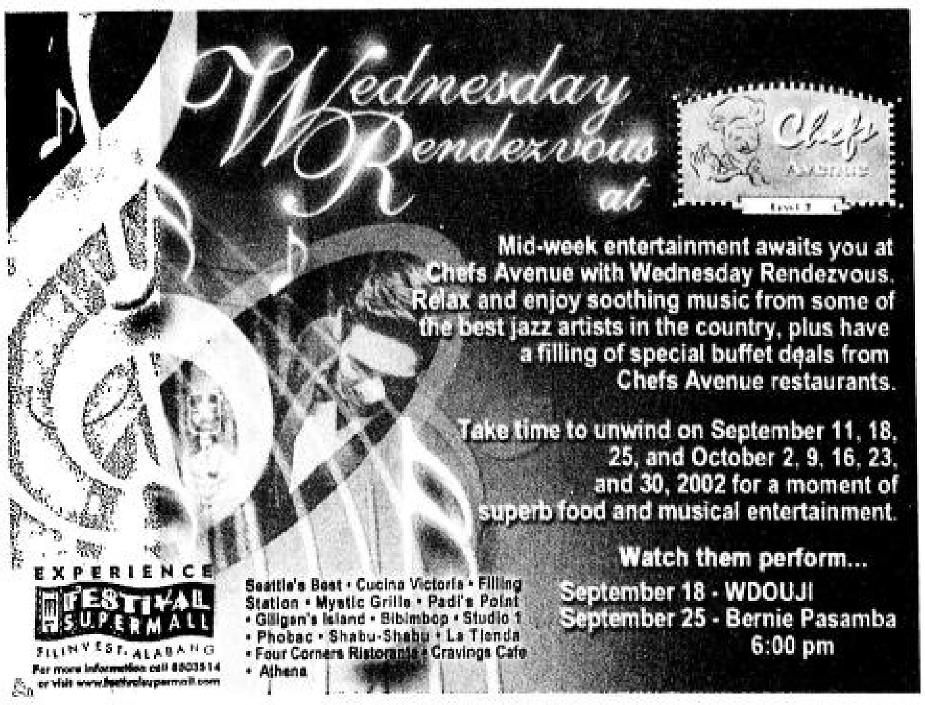
Clad in our maid's uniform, I went to Tim's condo the following morning. I was puzzled why we had to meet at the parking lot, until I learned that my first task was to clean his car. After giving me instructions, he left the parking lot, leaving me with a pail of water, wet cloth and still no clue how to clean a car. I should've paid more attention when our driver was washing our vehicle. "*Bahala na*," I told myself as I picked up the wet cloth and began to scrub furiously every inch of the car's exterior.

Realistic portrayal

I was on my knees scrubbing the side of the car when I heard someone call out, "'*Day, 'Day.*" I turned around, surprised that the man was calling me. "'*Day, nasaan si* Roly (Tim's driver)?" he asked. "*Hindi ko alam, bago lang ako dito eh,*" I replied nonchalantly. I was amused. I might not have the skills of a maid but I guess I could pass for one.

After finishing the rigorous job at the parking lot, I went up several floors to Tim's new condo unit. My

MAID/ p.E2



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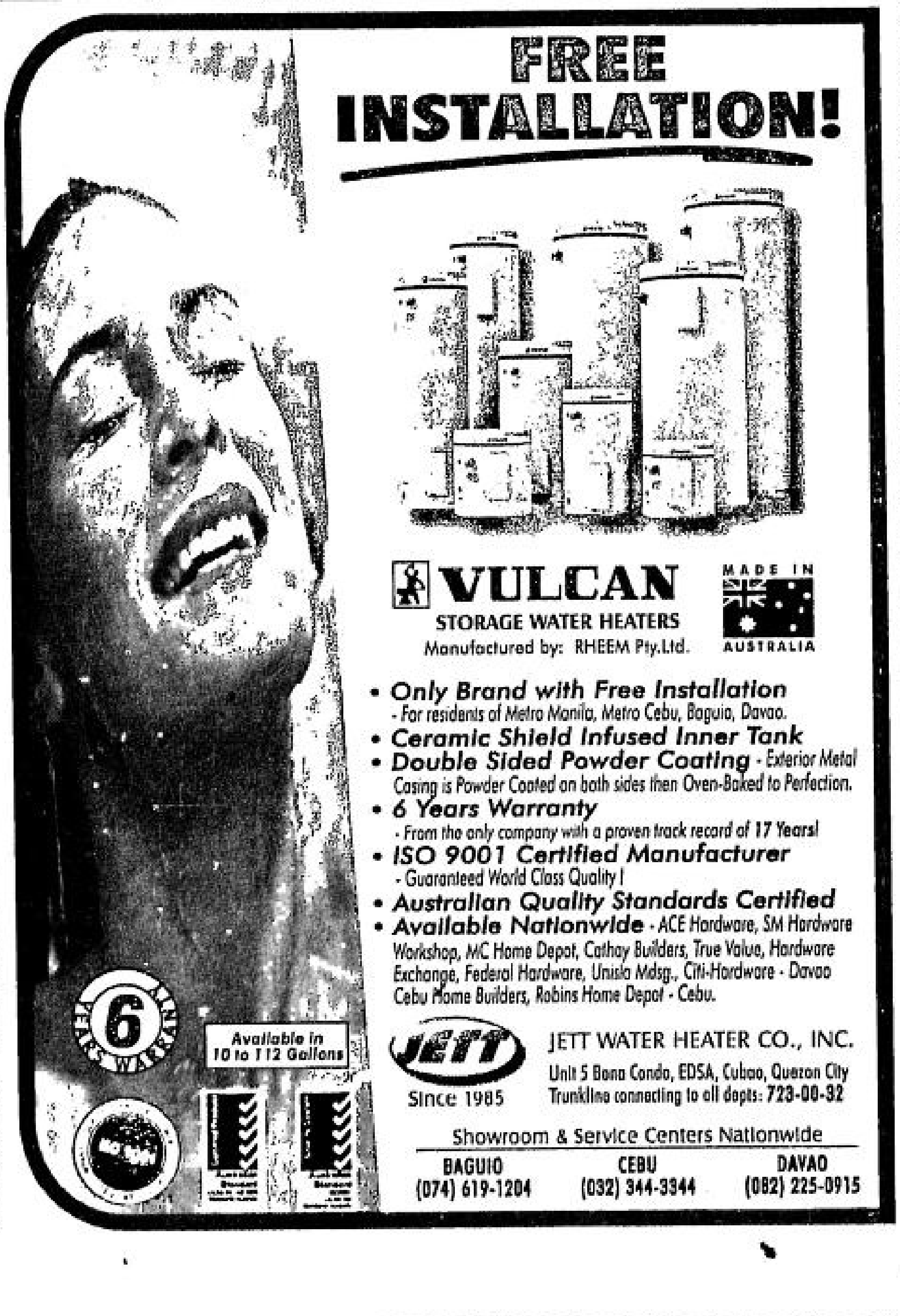

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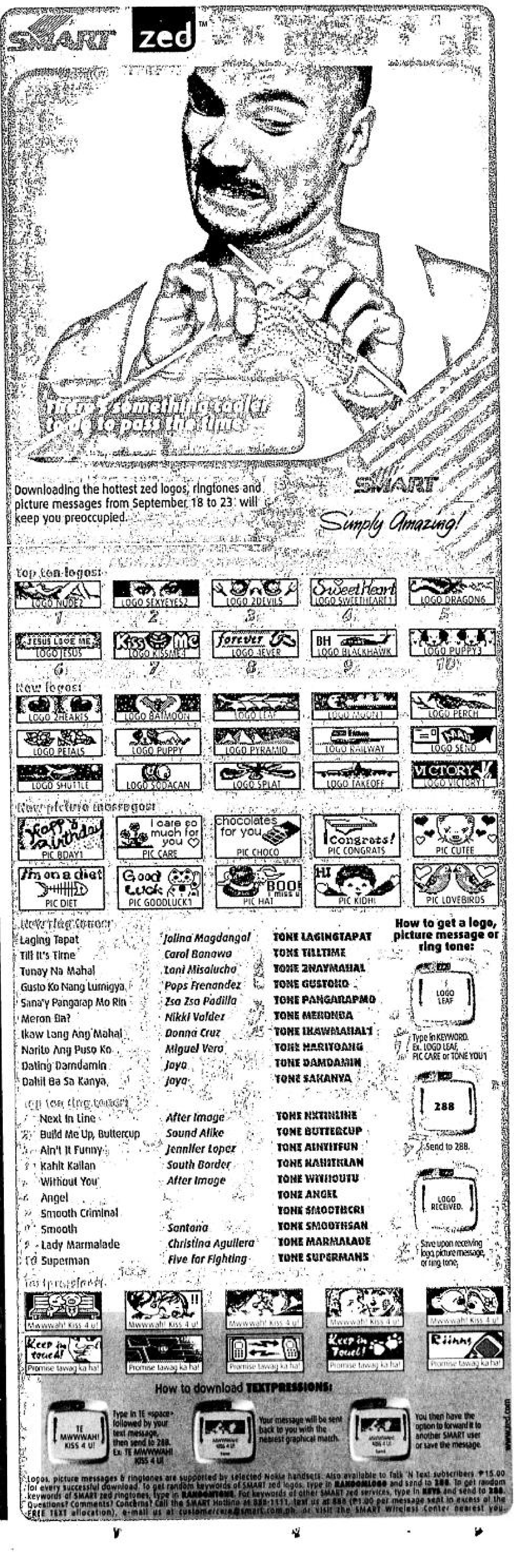

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6. LOGO JESUS
7. LOGO KISSME4
8. LOGO 4EVER
9. LOGO BLACKHAWK
10. LOGO PUPPY3

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LOGO BATMOON
LOGO LEAF
LOGO MOUNT
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LOGO PETALS
LOGO PUPPY
LOGO PYRAMID
LOGO RAILWAY
LOGO SEND
LOGO SHUTTLE
LOGO SODACAN
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LOGO TAKEOFF
LOGO VICTORY1

New picture messages:

PIC BDAY1
PIC CARE
PIC CHOCO
PIC CONGRATS
PIC CUTEE
PIC DIET
PIC GOODLUCK1
PIC HAT
PIC KIDHI
PIC LOVEBIRDS

New ring tones:

Laging Tapat	Jolina Magdangal	TONE LAGINGTAPAT
Till It's Time	Carol Banawa	TONE TILLTIME
Tunay Na Mahal	Lani Misalucha	TONE 2NAYMAHAL
Gusto Ko Nang Lumigya	Pops Frenandez	TONE GUSTOKO
Sana'y Pangarap Mo Rin	Zsa Zsa Padilla	TONE PANGARAPMO
Meron Ba?	Nikki Valdez	TONE MERONBA
Ikaw Lang Ang Mahal	Donna Cruz	TONE IKAWMAHAL1
Narito Ang Puso Ko	Miguel Vera	TONE NARITOANG
Dating Damdamin	Jaya	TONE DAMDAMIN
Dahil Ba Sa Kanya	Jaya	TONE SAKANYA

Top ten ring tones:

1	Next In Line	After Image	TONE NXTINLINE
2	Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
3	Ain't It Funny	Jennifer Lopez	TONE AINTITFUN
4	Kahit Kailan	South Border	TONE KAHITKLAN
5	Without You	After Image	TONE WITHOUTU
6	Angel		TONE ANGEL
7	Smooth Criminal		TONE SMOOTHCRI
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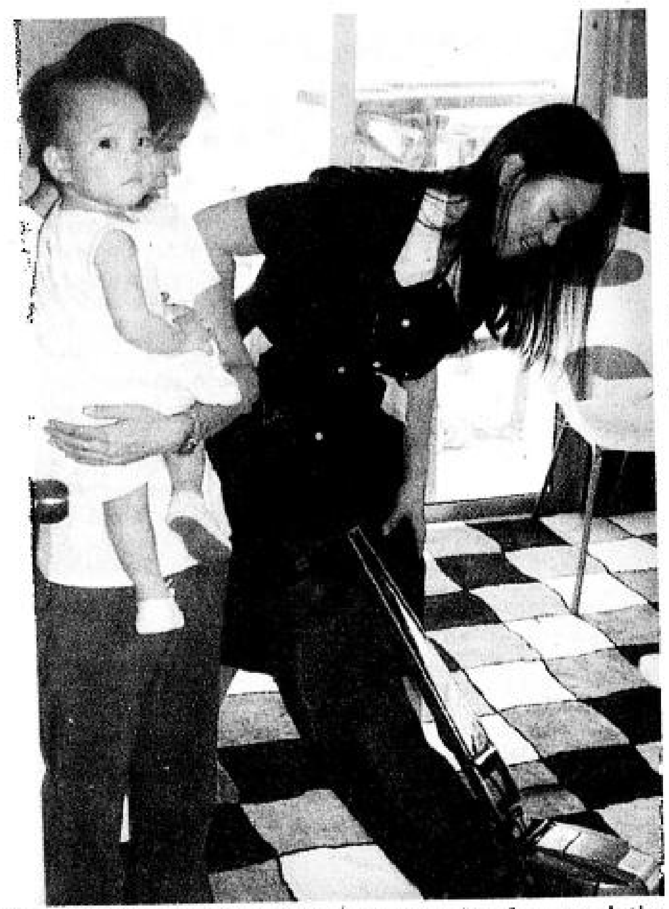
Maid-to-order for a day



GOVERNESS GRACE. July Ann and daughter Lee Anne teach the author the right way to clean the house.

> 'My assignment made me realize just how little I knew of what our helpers did—tasks that would've been mine if not for them'

GROCERY DAY. Corned beef for breakfast at 4 p.m.?

SHOPPING AT SHANGRI-LA. The author and her Master Tim

From page E1

next assignment was to clean it, starting by vacuuming the fully carpeted floor. Finally, I thought with immense relief, here's something I could do! It turned out to be a daunting task, not helped by the fact that Tim's vacuum cleaner weighed a ton. Pushing the heavy machine back and forth must have given my arms a workout as strenuous as Jane Fonda's exercise (no wonder our maids are so slim). My body was aching for a break after finishing the job, but there was no time to rest. I still had to dust, clean the glass panels and do the laundry.

I had no problems with the first two tasks, but washing clothes by hand was something else. Tim's clothes were neatly placed in a basin by the sink, ready to be washed, but there was one tiny problem: I didn't know how to do the laundry manually. Reluctant to admit defeat, I tried to recall the laundry detergent ads I'd seen on television. I remembered something about soaking the clothes in water and detergent powder for an hour. So, I filled the basin with water, added a spoonful of detergent powder and let the laundry soak for a while.

Meanwhile, "master" Tim had returned and, to my delight, noted about the good job I did vacuuming his place. Then, he announced that he was starving (he hadn't had lunch yet and it was late in the afternoon) and inquired if I could cook. Uh-oh. "Nope, sorry," I told him simply. "Not even hotdogs?" he teased. I smiled but silently thought, "Yes, not even hotdogs." Fortunately, my next task then was to accompany my "boss" for late lunch at the mall, stopping first to do some grocery shopping.

Enlightening experience

Going to the mall wearing a maid's uniform was an enlightening experience. As we had lunch, some people stared as if I had two heads, probably wondering if I was really Tim's maid or just someone with a kooky fashion sense. Most sales persons still called me "ma'am" despite my maid's outfit, except for one or two who brushed past me and only acknowledged Tim.

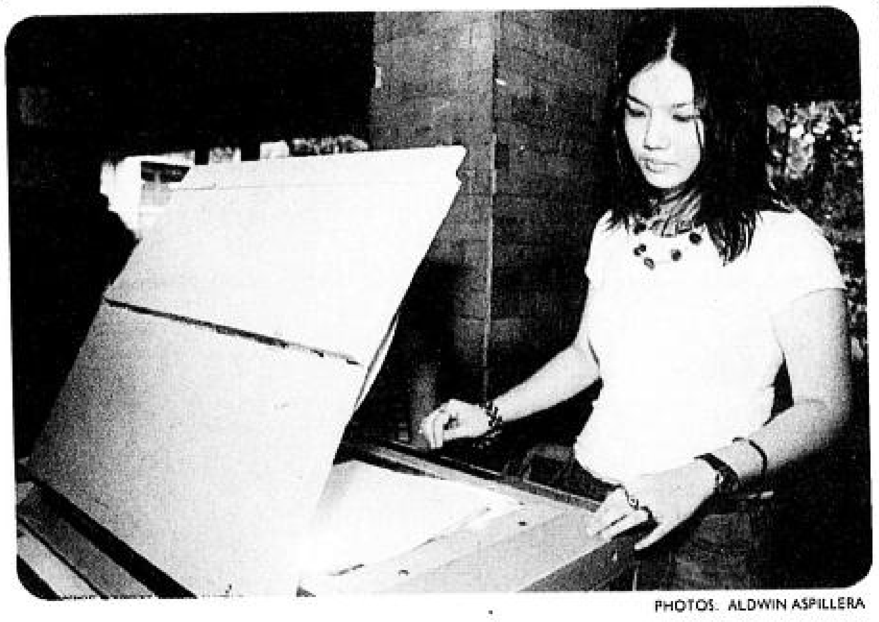
After the mall trip, I rushed to finish the laundry, learning just how hard it was to wash denim. At last, I was down to my final task: ironing clothes. Luckily, July Ann, the governess, was there to teach me the proper way to do it or I would've burned holes in his clothes.

I breathed a sigh of relief when I left Tim's place still in one piece. Once I got home, I immediately asked our *labandera* to show me the right way to wash clothes, telling her of my pitiful attempt to do the laundry. She roared with laughter. I made a mental note to tell Tim to have his clothes washed again.

My assignment was tough, but it made me realize just how little I knew of what our helpers did—tasks that would've been mine if not for them.

As I looked back on my day as a maid, I realized I'd taken our household help for granted and how I'd forgotten to say a simple "thank you" and give them a pat on the back for a job well done. So I say it now: *Salamat, manang.*

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com



PHOTOS: ALDWIN ASPILLERA

Copycat for two hours

By Cheryl Tiu

2bU! Correspondent

> Being on the other side of the photocopying machine doesn't seem like too tough a job until one actually tries it

EVERY time our professors would announce that our readings would be at the reserve section of the library, I'd grimace inwardly. It was bad enough that the reserve section was always crowded, but then all the photocopying machines at the Ateneo de Manila University had the longest lines in the world. I have very little patience and I think standing in line is the most grueling thing ever, especially when there's so little time. Luckily, I've been blessed with kind friends, like my blockmate Minnie Torres, who always remembers to ask me if I want our readings photocopied. (May God bless you, Minnie.)

Without those long, dreary lines, I always thought photocopying was kind of cool—making multiple copies of printed materials cheaply. I also liked the "after-Xerox" smell and the feel of the still-hot paper emerging from the photocopying machine. Being on the other side of the machine, the person doing the copying, didn't seem like too tough a job, so I volunteered for the task for a day—well, two hours actually.

Last Wednesday, after class, I rushed to the University of the Philippines Diliman and became the assistant of Ate Jenilyn "Jing" Marquez. Our Xerox corner was in Palma Hall. Ate Jing showed me how to change the copy size from A4 (short) to B4 (long), as well as how to darken or lighten the print. We charged 50 centavos for short paper, and 75 centavos for long paper.

Students and teachers came to have readings and notes photocopied. I was very tentative at first, making sure each sheet was positioned correctly before hitting the "start" button. I was very happy when someone would ask for 35 copies because I only had to press "35" and wait as the machine did all the work. After a couple of customers, I started congratulating myself for becoming an instant pro, until Ate Jing took over. She made the work seem like shuffling a pack of cards, finishing a thick pile in a matter of seconds.

To add to my disgrace, every time a customer paid, I had to use the calculator feature of my cell phone to compute the charges, being bad at math. Ate Jing, on the other hand, made the calculations mentally, coming up with the right amount even before I could punch the numbers.

At one point, I accidentally printed an extra copy of the wrong size. Ate Jing picked it up and said, "*Ano 'to?*" I sheepishly mumbled that I photocopied the wrong thing, quickly offering to pay for the error. Ate Jing gave out a hearty laugh. She said it was not a problem at all, explaining that they always had allowance for spoilage.

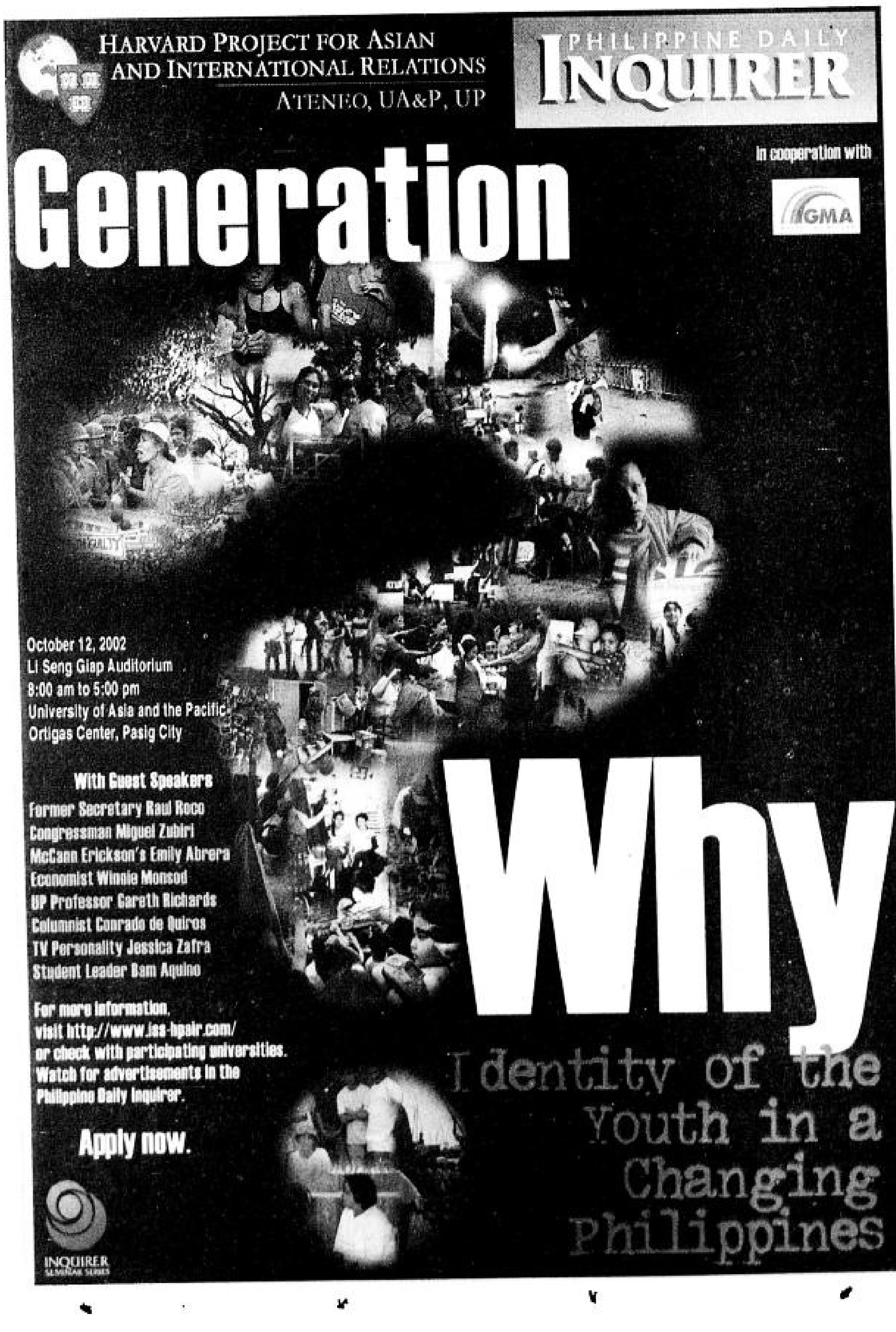
While I had my share of customers that day, I wasn't really under pressure because most UP students were off on Wednesday, so there weren't too many people in school. I could just imagine if it were a regular school day—I probably would have collapsed after five minutes at the rate I was going. While Ate Jing seemed to be running the marathon, I felt like I was trying to balance on a tightrope.

Photocopying is fun but it gets tedious and monotonous, especially if you just sit, waiting all day. I was fine because I didn't have many customers, and was only there for two hours; almost all people who work at photocopying have to be there *all* day.

I don't think I can ever get rid of my impatience, but I'm going to try to stop grumbling and making faces every time I have to stand in line to have something photocopied. After standing on the other side, I knew it hurt to have customers throw dagger looks and mumble, "*Ang bagal naman nito.*"

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

THANKS TO CATHY YOUNG AND MARTIN NGO



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> *What the world needs now are not just intelligent persons, but persons of the gospel who can transform the world with the love of Christ.*
> — words of Jaime Cardinal Sin in his message for the delegates of the 2002 CEAP National Convention

The words are thought provoking. The situation that Catholic schools now face is likewise thought provoking. Do Catholic schools produce graduates who transform the world with the love of Christ? Are these schools still true to their mission? Do they actually manifest their Catholic identity? How do they fare in the fast-changing world of the 21st century?

This year, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) opts to fully consider these thoughts and questions. The CEAP, the national organization of Catholic universities, colleges and schools, starts today a three-day National Convention gathering more than 1,300 Catholic educators and school administrators to assess the current situation of its member schools in the light of emerging educational trends and pastoral priorities, and to reflect on their Catholic identity as contextualized in Philippine realities.

The Convention will also serve as venue for identifying possible strategies to enhance the competencies of CEAP schools to meet the opportunities and challenges in education.

To help achieve the fulfillment of these objectives, prominent education and church leaders have been invited to share their insights, experiences and expertise with the delegates; and to guide them through the task of LOOKING WITHIN, and SEEING BEYOND.

Convention delegates are invited to *look within*—to identify current problems and obstacles that hamper growth while recognizing the opportunities and challenges that must be addressed in order to allow their school to move ahead.

Members are likewise encouraged to *see beyond*—there is, after all, a world out there that expects much from Catholic educational institutions. It is the same world that, while presenting problems, can provide the best answers to the unrelenting problems faced by CEAP member institutions.

Seeing beyond thus entails looking at the bigger context—the global and national challenges, the new learnings and technologies, government requirements that aim to push schools out of mediocrity, economic and social realities, the world of the 21st century.

As CEAP, each member institution may also look within and see beyond the Association, to be aware that it is part of a group with shared realities and similar experiences so that interaction can be made more fruitful by capturing essential learnings for replication in one's own school and community.

Delegates are called upon to seize the opportunity that the National Convention brings. For this is a chance to open doors to vaults of trade secrets, look through windows leading to views of material, financial, human and knowledge resources. This is one of CEAP's venue for collaboration so that all its members can attain the common goal—**quality and relevant Catholic education in the spirit of communion and service.**

This Convention aids the continuing reflection of the schools Catholic identity within the context of Philippine realities with a reconsideration of the resolutions drawn up in previous CEAP conventions. It helps to ensure that CEAP schools do not just exist but act as beacons of light, distinguished by the mark of relevance and effectiveness, serving as true witnesses of the faith.

Ultimately, part of the challenge is the rekindling of passion and the zeal of mission among Catholic educators so that they will leave the Convention more encouraged and inspired to follow Christ's calling and transform the world through Catholic education.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

DAY ONE September 25, 2002 Wednesday

AM
7:00 Start of Distribution of Convention Kits
Registration of Walk-in Delegates
9:00 Formal Opening of CEAP Exhibits
10:30 **Eucharistic Celebration**
Celebrant — Most Rev. Romulo G. Valles, DD
Bishop of Kidapawan

PM
2:00 **Opening Ceremonies**
Entrance of Colors & National Anthem
Welcome Remarks — Fr. Antonio S. Samson, SJ
Director, CEAP-Region X
Opening Address — Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, Jr., SVD
President, CEAP
Messages — Hon. Vicente Y. Emano
Mayor, Cagayan de Oro City
Hon. Antonio P. Calingin
Governor, Misamis Oriental
Presentation of Delegates by Region
Convention Orientation
2:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
LOOKING WITHIN, SEEING BEYOND:
PROCESS, PURPOSE AND PASSION IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY
Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ
President, Ateneo de Manila University
4:15 **CEAP Business Meeting**
Reading of Minutes of the Previous Assembly
Sr. Ma. Aurelia C. Navarro, OP
Corporate Secretary, CEAP
President's Report — Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, Jr., SVD
Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Proposed CEAP Budget
Sr. Mercedes E. Salud, SFIC
Treasurer, CEAP
Superintendents Commission Report
Sr. Carmeli Marie V. Catan, OSA
Chairperson, Superintendents Comm.
ECCCE & PhilCARE Report
Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos
Exec. Sec., Episcopal Commission on Catechesis & Catholic Education
Treasurer, Philippine Catechetical Advocacy & Religious Education Foundation
5:30 **TALK 1: STRENGTHENING THE FILIPINO FAMILY AND HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP**
Ambassador Henrietta T. De Villa
Executive Secretary, 4th World Meeting of Families Central Committee
6:30 **Election of New CEAP Director-at-Large**
7:00 **Cultural Presentation** — CEAP Region X

DAY TWO September 26, 2002 Thursday

AM
8:00 **TALK 2: ASIAN AND GLOBAL TRENDS IN EDUCATION: STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS**
Dr. Erlinda C. Pefianco
Executive Director, SEAMEO Innotech
10:15 **TALK 3: PASTORAL PRIORITIES OF THE CHURCH AND THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Most Rev. Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., DD
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Manila
11:45 **Announcement of Election Results**
Dr. Amelia G. Ronquillo
Induction of New CEAP Director-at-Large and Regional Directors
Orientation on the Concurrent Sessions
Sr. Corazon P. Manalo, DC
President
San Juan de Dios Educ'l Foundation

PM
2:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
5:15 **Eucharistic Celebration**
Celebrant: — Most Rev. Honesto C. Pacana, SJ, DD
Bishop of Malaybalay
6:15 **Announcement of New CEAP Officers**
Awarding of CEAP School Jubilarians
Presentation of New CEAP Member Schools

DAY THREE September 27, 2002 Friday

AM
7:45 Morning Praise by Concurrent Session Groups
8:00 **Synthesis of the Concurrent Sessions**
Sr. Lourdes M. Dulay, ICM
Directress, St. Augustine School, Tagudin
9:45 **DepEd SECRETARY'S HOUR**
Hon. Edilberto C. De Jesus
Secretary, Department of Education
Open Forum
11:00 **Eucharistic Celebration**
Celebrant — Most Rev. Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ, DD
Bishop of Ipil
Closing Remarks — Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, Jr., SVD

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Advt.

50 years of LEADERS in EDUCATIO

Vibal Publishing House, Inc. (VPHI) marks in 2003 its most important milestone thus far—the celebration of its golden anniversary as a pillar in the industry. The festivities are being launched early to coincide with the covention of the Catholic Educators' Association of the Philippines in Cagayan de Oro this month. And it is only fitting. After all, for most of its 50-year history, VPHI has built its reputation in educational publishing, earning the highest respect and approbation not only of its clientele but also its fellow players in the industry.

Indeed, the name Vibal Publishing has become synonymous to high quality educational books and instructional materials. Quality has, in fact, become a tradition the company has developed, maintained, and lived by for the past half century in the pursuit of its noble goal of being a partner in the country's efforts towards progress and development.

THE BEGINNINGS

VPHI was established in 1953 by **Hilarion P. Vibal**, a veteran journalist who served as business and finance editor of the *Philippines Herald* and the *Evening News*, both leading broadsheets at the time. He was also the literary editor of the *Daily Mail* with Carlos P. Romulo as editor-in-chief. In UP where he graduated, he won first prize in a literary contest for his play, "The Waves," based on the life of Jose Rizal. This play was included in the *Philippine Prose and Poetry*, an approved textbook for high school. From this literary background and vast experience as a newspaperman and editor, venturing into publishing and printing became a logical next step for Mr. Vibal.

VPHI's maiden publication, the *Insurance and Finance Magazine*, pioneered in the field of business reporting. As editor and publisher of the magazine, Mr. Vibal was the prime mover in propelling its success in the local business community. Although the magazine started out as a quarterly publication, it quickly gained wide acceptance that VPHI began publishing it on a monthly basis, renaming it *Insurance and Finance Journal* in the late 50s.

Shortly thereafter, VPHI transferred from its first office at the Samamillo Building in Escolta to a new office-printing plant at the corner of EDSA and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS

It was this initial success by Mr. Vibal that served as impetus toward VPHI's eventual venture into equally fruitful and productive endeavors in partnership with his wife, **Esther.**

In joining her husband at the helm of the company, Mrs. Vibal brought with her extensive experience in journalism earned at the *Manila Times*, complemented by a keen business acumen and a management style that was both aggressive and dynamic.

In 1961, the husband and wife team went full-scale into educational publishing combining entrepreneurial drive with nationalistic fervor in deciding the content of the company's products. It was no surprise, therefore, that science, being a basic component in the economic development of any country, became the publishers' logical choice as subject for their first endeavors in education.

BESTSELLERS THROUGH THE YEARS

Science in Schools, a monthly magazine designed as an instructional manual for science teachers was VPHI's first educational publication. With the lack of textbooks for both grade school and high school students, the magazine quickly became in demand among teachers as a prime source of content materials for the teaching of science in all levels.

Soon after, VPHI came out with reference materials including *The Sun and Other Stars, Wonders Over You, Conservation Through Education* and *Space Science for the Young.*

In the same year, VPHI branched out to mathematics with the publication of its first textbook series entitled *New Adventures in Arithmetic.* The series presented what was, at the time, a bold perspective that highlighted the fusion of both the social and mathematical aspects of arithmetic.

In 1964, VPHI came out with *School Time*, an instructional magazine for social studies. The popularity of the magazine brought on the publication of textbooks and reference materials on social studies, which – along with science – quickly developed into one of VPHI's core subjects. Later in the 80's, VPHI came out with n the popular series for civics and culture entitled *One Country, One People*, which has been on its bestseller list for two decades now, together with its Filipino edition.

The trend continued on as VPHI published one bestselling series after another including *Integrated Science* and *Science and Technology.* **Dr. Lilia M. Rabago**, former dean of the UP College of Education, and a member of VPHI's distinguished pool of authors and editors, authored the two series for high school.

The husband-and-wife team of **Drs. Efrain** and **Norma Abracia** authored the counterpart science series for elementary, as well as a new mathematics series, both of which also became among the most in demand products of VPHI.

In later years, VPHI began expanding its bestseller list to include English textbook series. But the title that started it all was *English Reader*, which came out in 1977. It pioneered as early as then, a current trend that calls for subject integration by drawing content from science, mathematics, and values concepts in the development of the material.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

By 1978, VPHI's one-storey EDSA plant would give way to a four-storey structure as the company's operations expanded further. But it was in the 1980s that VPHI began its unprecedented growth as it went on an aggressive campaign to serve the private schools.

The beginning of the decade also saw the company expanding its sales and marketing reach with the establishment of its office in Cebu. A Davao office would later open and would firmly establish VPHI's marketing foothold throughout the archipelago.

VPHI has just inaugurated its new headquarters at the corner of G. Araneta Ave. and Ma. Clara St. in Quezon City. The ultra-modern structure houses its editorial and administrative offices, and state-of-the-art equipment for publishing and printing.

Over the years, VPHI has published close to 5,000 titles, covering virtually every subject area required by the Department of Education and private learning institutions. Each VPHI title is guaranteed to have been developed by competent educator-authors and editors, all of whom are acknowledged authorities in their respective fields of expertise.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE '90S

The 1990s brought on new challenges that tested VPHI's resilience as a company. Growing competition opened to the market an array of new titles to choose from. But VPHI's strong foundation built around its original core subjects in science and social studies, as well as new titles in English and Christian living, enabled it to pull through the trying years.

In 1991, an affiliate company, SD Publications, Inc. was put up to handle *Student's Digest* and *S&T Digest*, and publish public school textbooks.

It was also at this time that the age of computerization dawned on the local publishing industry and VPHI, realizing its serious implications on its operations, geared up to meet the challenge.

The members of VPHI executive committee headed by its Vice-president & Gen. Manager, Nila V. Mata (seated, third from left).

VPHI acquired the latest computer hardware and software as well as prepress and printing equipment to fast track its operations.

Milestones in VPHI's 50 years

1953
INSURANCE & FINANCE

1953 Hilarion P. Vibal launches VPHI's maiden publication, the *Insurance and Finance Magazine.*
1957 VPHI moves its operation from Samamillo Building in Escolta to an office-printing plant along EDSA in QC.

1961 *Science in Schools*, VPHI's initial pursuit in educational publishing, is approved as teachers' reference by the Bureau of Public Schools.
1964 VPHI branches out to mathematics and social studies with the publication of *New Adventures in Arithmetic* and *School Time.*

science
1960

1970
ENGLISH READER 2

1977 VPHI's publishes its first English series *English Reader* which, as early as then, integrates math, science and values content.
1978 VPHI on its 25th year, inaugurates its four-storey complex at the corner of EDSA and Quezon Avenue.

1980 VPHI establi
Student's Dig
1981 ESP is launch
and training o
1986 VPHI begins c

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Congratulations!
to
Vibal Publishing House, Inc.
on its
50th Anniversary

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PHILIPPINES

LAMCO
PAPER

WHAT THEY SAY...

Joy-filled congratulations to VPHI on its golden anniversary! It is our ardent hope and prayer for VPHI to continue its social commitment through excellence in educational publishing.
MO. ASSUMPTA DAVID, RVM
Directress, UIC-Davao City

VPHI has gained the reputation for producing excellent products. On its 50th anniversary, we salute the company's unparalleled service to educators and students.
MS. JUANITA L. ELIGIO, G.S. Principal
Christ the King College-San Fernando City

The 50 years of your existence is evidently felt through the partnership that you have established with schools. May you continue this mission. Congratulations!
MS.OFELIA MENESES, Asst. Directress
Quiapo Parochial School, Manila

"VPHI never stops improving its products for the benefit of the youth. Happy golden anniversary!"
S. TERESITA MANALO, RVM
Principal, St. Mary's Academy-Cebu City

We've always patronized your books and magazines because of their quality. The people behind the company make sure that their products are relevant to the changing times. Keep it up!
MRS. ELENA U. NAPIZA, Principal
Liceo de Pila-Laguna

VPHI has a reputation for quality books needed for quality instruction. I thank VPHI for its assistance in teachers' training and development. Best wishes!
ALMA S. HORDISTA, PH. D., Director,
Notre Dame of Dadiangas-General Santos City

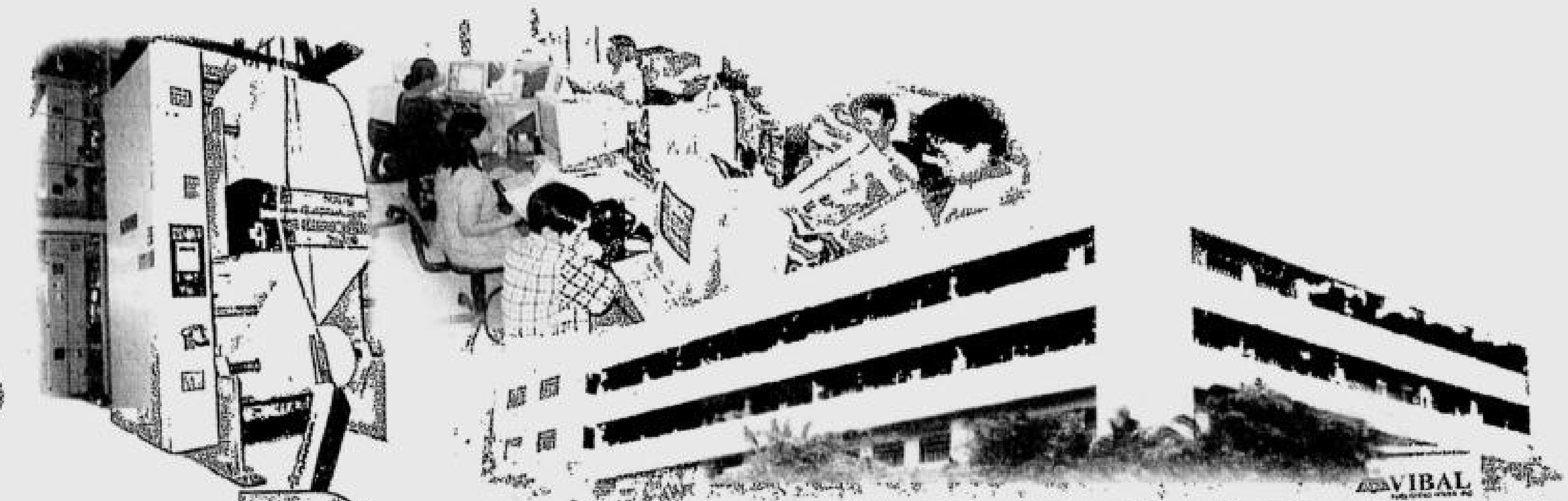
The textbooks of VPHI are closely aligned with our curriculum. We are grateful that we can also ask other services from VPHI. Congratulations on your 50th anniversary.
NORMA BLANCO, Asst. to the President - Planning & Dev't., La Salle-Lipa City

VPHI assures educators and students of relevant and user-friendly educational material—golden contribution indeed!
S. BERNADETTE RACADIO, Directress
St. Paul College-Pasig City

I convey my best wishes to VPHI and its staff as you celebrate 50 years of educational service. This is a real source of joy and thanksgiving to God for the manifold blessings. Mabuhay!
S. LOURDES DALWATAN, O.P., Directress
St. James Academy-Plaridel

The products and services of VPHI truly enrich our curriculum. It's been a fruitful experience partnering with you. Continue spreading your wings in the pursuit of educational excellence.
MS. AIDA S. IDIO, G.S. Principal
St. Louis University-Baguio City

VPHI has etched significant part in the lives of educators and learners. The products contain well-organized ideas and provide logical progression of skill-building activities. Move forward Vibal!
MS. ERLINDA S. PALABRICA, Principal, Woodridge College;
President, Cavite Association of Private Schools (CAPS)



SHIP
ONAL PUBLISHING

RELEVANCE AND INNOVATION

In recent years, VPHI has taken some very bold steps that have shaped its destiny and future as a company. Its deliberate attempts to infuse relevance and innovation into every aspect of its operations have contributed much to its success.

This progressive management approach has become the hallmark of VPHI under the able direction of **Nila Vibal-Mata** who heads all entities under the Vibal Group of Companies in her capacity as vice president and general manager. Under Mrs. Mata's active charge, VPHI's practices reflect management's strong philosophy of total customer focus, driving growth from the success it brings to its clients. This is evident in the manner by which VPHI has evolved in the development of its products. A case in point is its *Language Arts* series, which uses structural and situational approaches of language teaching. Developed by VPHI's author-editor **Lourdes M. Ribo**, this combination of approaches equips the student with cognitive abilities and critical and creative thinking skills. Another is the *Christian Living series*, which became the first in the Philippines to weave together Creed, Cult and Code.

BEYOND TEXTBOOKS

Through the years, the company has continued to seek new avenues on which to contribute its share in ensuring quality education for the Filipino youth.

VPHI's Educational Service Program (ESP) continues to assist schools in faculty development by providing teacher trainings and seminar-workshops. For 20 years now, ESP has maintained a dynamic and efficient pool of lecturers on innovative teaching strategies and techniques in all areas, effectively helping uplift the teaching-learning standards in the country.

The company's success has also made it better aware of its responsibilities in corporate citizenship. The H. P. Vibal Foundation provides educational assistance to deserving but underprivileged young individuals.

VPHI's product line today has expanded to include not just traditional books but also the production and distribution of innovative multimedia educational materials. This includes curriculum-support materials (CSM) in VHS tapes and interactive educational CDs.

Last year, VPHI produced a six-volume video package entitled *Mga Rehiyon ng Pilipinas*, which showcases all 16 geographical regions of the Philippines. Each 20-minute episode features the provinces, points of interest, and other relevant facts on each of the regions.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

For all its efforts, VPHI does not want for awards and recognition. It is proud of having been cited by the Values Educators of Metro Manila in 1989 for its contribution to the improvement of education in the country. It also received the GEAR Award in 1983 for achievement in publishing and printing and similar awards from the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines.

Mrs. Vibal, who as VPHI president, continues to be the most vital and dynamic force behind the success of the company, was also conferred the Book Development Leadership Award by the National Book Development Board in 2001. Mrs. Vibal was cited for exemplary leadership, and active and responsible participation in the country's book publishing industry.

Despite the accolades and the loyalty of its clientele, VPHI continues to be resolute in its drive toward achieving and maintaining the highest levels of quality of its products.

More importantly, VPHI remains committed to serving the Filipino by helping improve quality of life through education. At the same time, the company looks forward to another 50 years of challenges with the same pioneering and innovative spirit that has blazed trails in the field of educational publishing through the years propelling VPHI to its current position as among the best there is in the industry.

Q & A with Ms. Esther A. Vibal

Ms. Esther A. Vibal, president of Vibal Publishing House, Inc., took time to talk about her role at the forefront of the country's leading educational publishing company. Excerpts:

Tell us about your background as a publisher.

During the pre-Martial Law days, I helped in the editing and production of women's section pages for the *Manila Times* run by the Roceses. As Philippine representative to the International Council of Women, I edited and published a book entitled *Children's Stories and Tales from Many Lands* in the '70s. I also edited the *International Inner Wheel Newsletter*. IIW is an organization which links together 100,000 clubs in different parts of the world. I have the honor of being the only Asian so far to have served as its World President.

You have always been active in women's organizations both here and abroad...

I served as president of the National Council of Women of the Philippines, which is the umbrella organization of all major women's groups such as Zonta, Soroptimist, YWCA, women lawyers, and the Girl Scouts. I was also appointed commisioner of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women which is the first national machinery of women in Asia, advocating women's advancement and gender equality. I have been a Philippine delegate to several UN conferences on the status of women in New and York and in other places. I am on the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the UP Center for Women Studies.

What were the challenges VPHI faced during its early years?

My husband and I went into educational publishing because we felt there was a serious lack of good locally produced materials for schoolchildren especially in the field of science. I suppose we had the instincts about the products that had a ready market. As competition got stiffer, it was hardwork that pulled us through. I try to lead by example, so when there was work to be done, I put in as many hours as needed to finish the job and my employees could attest to that.

You have been very successful in steering VPHI into one of the country's most progressive publishing firms. To what do you attribute its success?

VPHI started as a family business, but we established an executive committee that is represented by managers and supervisors of all aspects of operations. It is a very good EXCOM that really governs and directs the policies of the company since its members are directly in charge of each area. In fact, they can overrule me! The result is a more vibrant organization. This, I would say, is the basis for the progress of VPHI as a company.

VPHI has managed to be at the top of the industry. What is its "secret"?

You have to expand. You have to keep going. You have to move into other areas, introduce new things, innovate. At VPHI, we have expanded our product line so we have launched educational materials in tapes and CDs. We are also developing books in full color. We have also been expanding our sales reach. Now, we have offices in the Visayas and Mindanao. We have all public and private schools throughout the country covered.

Do you offer special programs for your employees?

We try our best to give our employees good benefits because we believe the company's human resources is its most valuable asset. For this, we provide housing facilities, medical benefits as well as scholarships to deserving employees. We also provide educational assistance to employee dependents.

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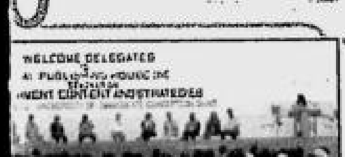
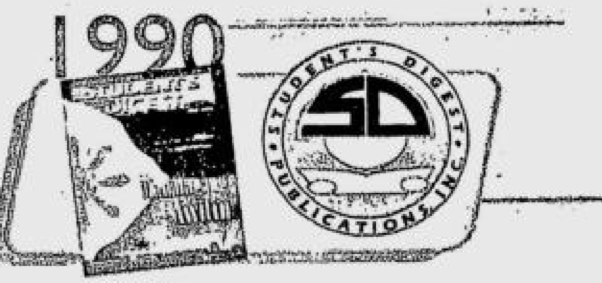


1990



1991 VPHI establishes a sister company, SD Publications, Inc. to undertake the publication of supplementary magazines and the public school textbook requirements
1999 VPHI further expands its sales reach with the establishment of a regional office in Davao.

2001
- VPHI President Esther A. Vibal receives the Book Development Leadership Award from the National Book Development Board.
- VPHI expands its product line to include innovative multimedia educational materials in VHS and CD format.

2000

2003

2002 VPHI moves to its new headquarters – a four-storey complex at the site of its old building at the corner of G. Araneta Ave. and Ma. Clara St. in Quezon City.
2003 VPHI marks its 50 years in the publishing industry.

VIBAL @ 50

Her Pen Wields Wisdom

If the name Lourdes M. Ribo happens to ring a bell, chances are you are among those who have read her books either as a student or as a teacher.

She's got her name as author or editor stamped on virtually every Language, Reading, and Christian Living book published by VPHI since the mid-80s.. Yet, when asked about her talent for writing, Mrs. Ribo merely laughs it off, saying: "Talent? What talent?"

She would go as far as admitting to having been a voracious reader as a child. She claims it was this love for reading that kindled her passion for writing. Although she dabbled in poetry in her youth and also wrote short stories, she is quick to differentiate that kind of writing to what she does today.

"Writing textbooks needs more than just a creative and imaginative mind," says Mrs. Ribo. "It requires knowledge of the principles and theories of teaching; knowledge of teaching techniques and strategies; awareness of current events, historical facts and finally, a sixth sense that makes it possible for one to pinpoint literature and technique that appeal to the age group for whom a book is written."

Mrs. Ribo came to VPHI in 1986 well-equipped, thanks to her education (BSEEd and MA from PNU); her 35 years as an English teacher; and her fondness for reading, which she never outgrew. The last, important requirement, she honed over the past 17 years she has been with VPHI.

Mrs. Ribo says she has truly much to be thankful from her association with VPHI, not the least of which are the material gains from her authorship of some of the company's bestsellers.

But more importantly, she says, she has become a more responsive and understanding person "not only because of my immersion in the Bible and Church documents but also because of my exposure to great literature."

Mrs. Ribo's popular textbook series are Christian Living (CL) 1-6, which came out in 1988, and Language Arts 1-6 (1995) and Language in Literature (1998) for high school. She is completing a new CL series from grade school to high school entitled We Celebrate God's Love. VPHI is launching her ABRE and ABLA series for Reading and Language for SY 2003-04.

On the celebration
of our 50 years
in educational publishing,
we have one golden opportunity
to welcome
new challenges,
. . . new paradigms
and **new horizons.**

Join VPHI's
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For details, please contact the VPHI representative assigned to your school.

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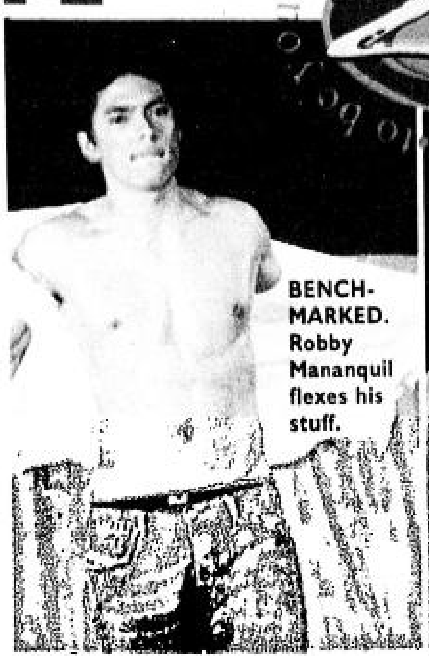
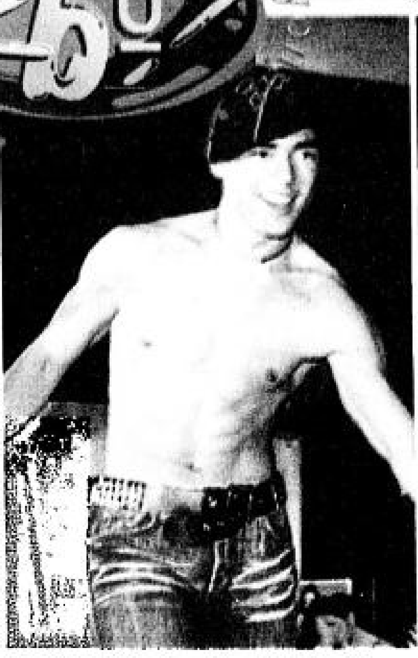
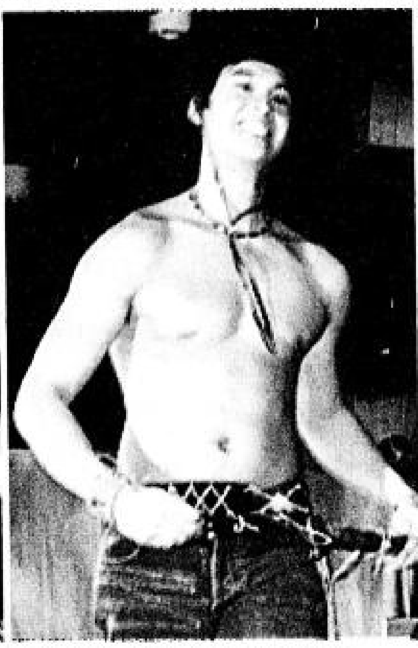

BENCH-MARKED. Robby Mananquil flexes his stuff.


POWER BOY. Greg Martin in Lee's latest denims


BOY TOY. Edward Mendez from Maryland in cowboy blues

SPANK ME, BABY. Jon Hall on the Cosmopolitan ramp

KYLIE MODE. Model Carlo Adorador exudes seductive retro flair.

Fearless fun females in a frolic

STUNNINGLY SEXY. Claudine Trillo at Dish

Tim Yap

IT was the night when even Cyndi Lauper's throat would have gone sore from sheer screaming at men, men and more men. Yes, these girls just wanna have fun! And when you say men, at least in the field of sensual satisfaction and intimate indulgence, Cosmopolitan magazine comes to mind.

After months of intense drum-beating, Summit's best-selling magazine about hormones celebrates its annual bash, with a magazine featuring 69 of the city's hottest and most eligible men. Last Friday night at Dish, the sought-after Cosmo centerfolds and a mad number of male models engaged in a strip fest that sent the audience, composed of equally hot young women who are oh so in touch with their wild side, to multiple oohs and ahhs.

"Surprisingly, there were a lot of men who watched the show, too," said Dish's dashing **Phillip Cu-Unjieng**. Either the men were there for the ladies in the audience or the ratio of testosterone lovers this side of town was really getting overboard. (Well, FHM, another best-selling Summit title, will disprove that.) Cosmo ed in chief **Myrza Sison** was all smiles as she saw how the fearless females frolicked the night away. **Donna "It-doesn't-affect-me-anymore" Cuna**, despite being jaded with all the men around, kept her poise as the men stripped onstage.

"AAAHHH! Your waist is smaller than mine!"

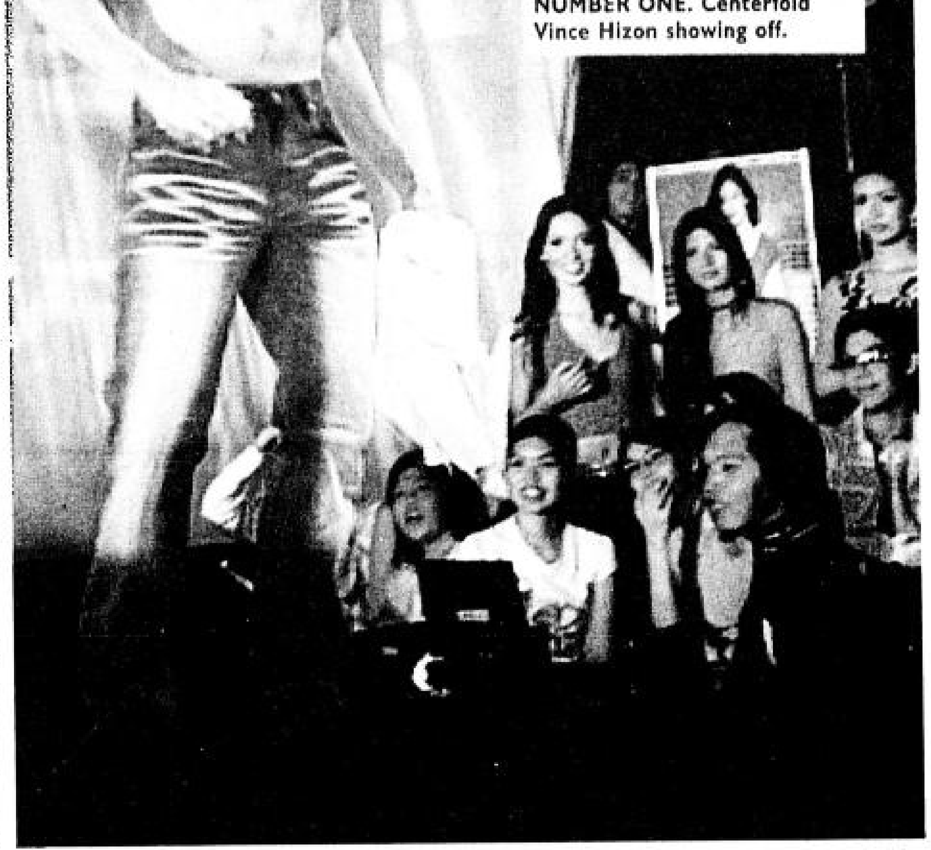
The annual Cosmo Bachelor Bash started with an open bar from Dish and Premier Wines. It was followed by a bartending competition as orgasmic cocktails were served. Then hostess **Shaan Bermudez** took centerstage to introduce the **Robby Carmona**-directed fashion show, a steamy episode featuring Lee's latest denims from vintage to utilitarian to sporty and sexy. From there, it was bedtime with the centerfolds cuddling feather-soft pillows.

The peak came when the big three—**Marc Nelson**, **Christian Vasquez** and **Jon Hall**—came on stage at the same time to present the Cosmopolitan Men Calendar 2003. Autograph sessions and an Epson print auction served as fitting post-climax affairs to an event that made the women wet and wide-eyed with excitement. Later, everyone went straight to Wherelse where the frolicking reached fever pitch. Down, girl, down.

BOOB TUBE. Fun, fearless female goes to papa.

ANG GALING-GALING MO BABES. **Marc Nelson in action**

NUMBER ONE. Centerfold Vince Hizon showing off.


LUCKY WITH THE GIRLS. Lucky Manzano at the Cosmopolitan bachelors bash at Dish

Wherelse wave

While we are on the topic, join the crew of scene-shaker **Marcel Crespo** and his beautiful set of Manila night scene movers, when reigning hot, hot, hotspot Wherelse turns a year younger this fab Friday. The exclusive anniversary shebang comes with that distinct Wherelse flavor—lush lounge setup of carpets and pillows, dancers and percussionists that the club has pioneered through its chill series and after event parties. So where to this weekend? Wherelse?!

On Thursday night, discover the dark side of the sea as Cerveza Negra holds an oyster and booze fest at Il Ponticello from 8:30 p.m. onward. Also featured are fortune-telling booths, a fashion show and a mini-food festival. Model and VJ **Bianca Araneta** hosts, while **Gutsy Tuason** does his popular slideshow presentation of unique underwater scenes. Ponticello gift certificates and a Techno Sport watch will be raffled off in this black-attired event organized by pretty, pretty **Celine Gabriel** and **Marga Montemayor** to benefit the Save Davao Gulf Foundation. For tickets, call 887-7168/4998.

Today, Wednesday, hip and hot Absolut launches Absolut Jean Paul Gaultier over lunch at Nuvo in the new Greenbelt. At night, **Rock Drilon** holds a wine reception at Aresi to open his new exhibit.

In the weekend, why don't you check out the new yoga studio at the Mandarin? It was launched yesterday to complement the hotel's full spa services. So after that stressful week, nothing is more therapeutic than an invigorating yoga session, followed by an afternoon at the spa. Relax and enjoy the week, partyphiles.

COSMO'S SEXIEST. Models Val de los Santos, Rissa Samson and Nicolette Bell

COSMO SET. Ianne Sison, Pia Rojas, Donna Cuna and Ria Limjap

HOSTESS Shaan Bermudez

A VISION of Hans Montenegro

THREESOME. Hans Montenegro, Dianne Sison and Illac Diaz

FUN, FUN, FUN! Treena Cueva, Michelle Katigbak and ed in chief Myrza Sison

---

Cargo handler at your service

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

THIS was one assignment I didn't want to take.

My reluctance was evident when I was told I would be working in the cargo division of Asiana Airlines. "*O, napilitan daw ba?*" she asked me.

But I had my reasons. Not that I minded lifting luggage and boxes. I had a lot of practice on that through the countless events the UST Varsitarian, of which I am a staffer, puts up in school.

It was just that I didn't want to make a fool of myself. I mean, the people I would be pestering were blue-collar workers. They probably had their routine pat down to the last second. I'd look like a kid in a field trip, asking stupid questions like, "If I drop this, would it break?"

They wouldn't want a snotty punk like me slowing them down, right? Wrong.

When Bert Lunas, cargo supervisor for Asiana, introduced me to his crew, I was pleasantly surprised to hear someone say, "*Taga-*INQUIRER *ka? Wala bang pa*-picture?"

Good thing I caught them in good spirits. I was afraid I'd hear someone sneer since they had been working since 6 a.m. As they went down to work, I tried to help as much as I could. But they performed their tasks like clockwork. I think they would have finished faster had I not meddled in their work.

I started my stint as a cargo handler helping in something called a "build-up." It went like this. Boxes were stacked to a predetermined height, covered in sheets of plastic commonly called "jackwrap," then held in place by a net.

"*Pero hindi puwedeng basta ka na lang lagay nang lagay*," a crewmember told me. As it turned out, they had everything measured to the last inch. The height with which they stacked the cargo depended on which part of the plane it would be placed.

DON'T be fooled. There's nothing inside that box. Really.

BOY TALK. Swapping stories of their latest escapades.

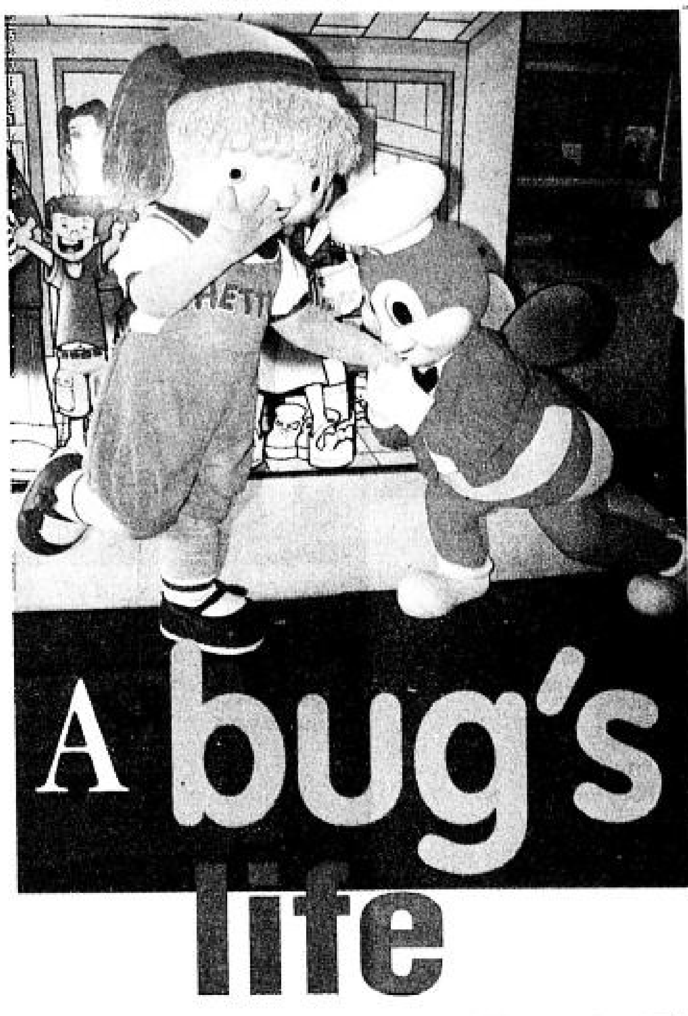
"*Eto sa gitna, kaya kailangan* 46 (feet)," the crewmember said, extending a tape measure.

My first job was easy. All I had to carry were boxes of clothing. At this point, I started conversing with the crew. Contrary to what I had expected, they actually liked their job. And I could see why. They constantly joked around, even a stranger like me couldn't hold my laughter.

But it wasn't all fun and games. I learned that as a forklift whizzed past where I was sitting. A handler told me he was once hit in the leg by a forklift. To make it worse, he said he hadn't worked that long in the company.

Despite this, I never took my eye off the prize. I wanted to drive a forklift. Never mind that I hadn't driven in years. And that the only time I attempted to learn to drive, I only lasted two blocks because I got nervous. "I've had enough practice with Daytona (an arcade game), and besides it's automatic," I foolishly reassured myself.

But I was running out of time. I had a UAAP game to catch. And my ride was about to leave. With a heavy heart, I left the warehouse without having driven a forklift. Just as well, I guess. I wouldn't want to mess up on my first day.



A bug's life

The next time you see a Jollibee mascot, pity the poor creature inside the costume that is making kids scream with delight

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

RECENTLY I was given a rare opportunity not just to witness the Jollibee team in action, but to be a part of it. For two days, I became a mascot and a crewmember. Sounds easy? Read on.

The first stop of my Jollibee weekend training was RJC Mascot Services, which is owned by John Caja. Together with Connie Rodriguez, the packaged programs officer, he explained my schedule. The usual three-day seminar for mascot wannabes would be condensed into a few hours for me. I would be acquainted with the individual movements and personalities of the characters: Jollibee, Hetty, Twirly, Mr. Yum, Champ and Popo the Potato (I finally learned the name of the French fries mascot). For that day, I was going to be Jollibee and Hetty.

But first I had to memorize the personalities of the characters. According to Ma'am Connie, each character has its own qualities that make it unique from the others. Jollibee is the leader, Hetty is the shy kid, Twirly is the *kikay* girl, Mr. Yum is the intellectual, and Champ is the athlete.

The challenge of teaching a neophyte like me was placed on the shoulders of Dennis Sanchez and Jhae del Rosario. Sir Dennis has been giving his services as Jollibee since before I was born. He can spend six full hours in costume, so I knew I was in very capable hands. Sir Jhae has been the person behind Hetty for a long time as well.

When I came face to face with the costumes, I was awed. The head alone weighed 5-7 kg and was made of fiberglass. The body weighed almost 10 kg and was made of foam. Right then, I was really happy to have been placed in a circuit weight-training PE class. For a brief moment, I felt like what Mel Gibson's character must felt in "The Signs" when he was face-to-face with the alien—there actually was a reason for me to be doing military presses at 7 a.m.

When Sirs Dennis and Jhae concluded I had been trained enough to wear the costume, I was asked to cover my head with a bandanna to keep the sweat from going into my eyes. That gave me enough warning as to how sweltering it would be inside the costume.

As mascot

I wore the Jollibee costume. Attached to the head were two long cables that the mascoteer (for lack of a better word) could squeeze—one to make the eyes blink, and another to make the mouth open and close. The latter also helped the wearer to see, since the Jollibee costume allowed only 10-percent vision.

The body was divided in three parts—the two legs and the torso. Once I got my bare feet in, I had to bind the costume to my body with strips of cloth. Then, I tried to make sure I was holding the cables in place. And then I pushed my arms in the torso part. At this point, I really didn't know what I looked like, and a full-length mirror confirmed my transformation.

"There are requirements a person must fulfill before becoming a mascot," Sir Dennis reminded me in Filipino while I was dressing. One was height (5'6" to 5'8"), and second was that the wearer should not be claustrophobic. Third was physical fitness.

As I took my first steps, I must say that Jollibee had a very heavy butt. Every which way I turned, I ended up hitting something. At that point, I was glad I was not going to be presented to a roomful of excited kids. I would have ended up squishing the poor things.

Next was the Hetty costume. Sir Jhae explained that it was actually more difficult than being Jollibee because of two things: the head was twice as big and vision was only 5 percent. Great, I thought. I would have to be skipping and twirling the hair and I wouldn't be able to see a thing. Strangely enough, they thought I was better as Hetty.

While I was in both mascots, I felt all my inhibitions vanish. I could dance to Gary V's "Hataw Na" without any shame because the audience couldn't see me at all. The most challenging thing was the limited movement and the fact that I couldn't wipe off the sweat. I tried, but I ended up like a psychotic bee whacking itself on the face.

It was also quite difficult to be perky when your head could fall off at any moment. After 25 minutes inside those costumes, I felt the moisture being sucked out from my body, and when I took the costume off, I could see the sweat on the inside layer. Sir John explained that all the costumes were sprayed with Lysol on the inside to keep them sanitized. The outer layer was also washed with soap and water to keep it clean, since kids would hug the mascot. After 25-35 uses, the costumes would be discarded.

The average mascot time was 30 minutes. I lasted 25; I consider that an achievement. But at that particular moment, all I wanted was a shower.

As food crew

Barely given 24 hours to recuperate, I shifted roles from being a mascot to being a crew member of the new Jollibee Ortigas-Roosevelt branch. I was doing this as a proxy, since the correspondent who had this assignment could not make it. In truth, I thought it was going to be an easier job than being a mascot.

PHOTOS: ALDWIN ASPILLERA

While waiting, I observed the customers. An irate mother snapped at one of the crew. I suddenly panicked and started memorizing the menu. It seemed then that being a crewmember would be much harder than being a mascot. At least as Jollibee, everyone loves you. As a crewmember, the customers usually take you for granted.

Ma'am Maris, the store manager, briefed me. Sir Paul gave me my uniform and my name tag. After wrestling with the hairnet and slipping twice on the linoleum, I was ready.

The first thing I noticed was that everyone was genuinely happy. The team had camaraderie.

For my first thrust into the world of fast-food, Sir Paul left me at the mercy of Sir Zam, one of the crew leaders who became my trainer for kitchen duties. The first task I did was breading the chicken. Sir Zam told me that every product had its own requirement—from temperature to holding time (the span of time that the product was allowed to be sold before expiration). Everything, it seemed, revolved not just around high standards, but also around time. What would happen if the clock suddenly stopped? Sir Zam said they had more clocks at the back.

At first, breading the chicken was quite therapeutic. Everything was methodical; each process had its own system. Several bags of poultry later, I learned all about the other frying stations—the Shanghai rolls, the pies and the fries. Then, Sir Zam taught me how to make the sauces and the sandwiches, how to grill the hamburger patties and how to assemble the noodle-based dishes—all of this crammed into roughly five hours.

A birthday party was being held at that time, so from kitchen duties, I was upgraded to being a server for a party of 200 guests. Incidentally, Jollibee and Hetty were the mascots for the event, so while giving out spaghetti to the kids, I was empathizing with the brave souls inside those costumes. Yes, I know exactly how you feel.

I was glad to be useful this time, and it was great that the adults at the party thought I was really part of the crew. Serving was as stressful as the kitchen, but this time with more customer relations. Being with kids was fun; this was actually the job I liked best, even though there was a table of irritating adult men hogging all the food.

After the adrenaline rush of the party, I was sent to do cleaning duties. Sir Archie, one of the section managers, and Sir John, a crewmember, showed me the ropes of attending and bussing the tables, mopping and window washing. I was even tested on the different types of cleaners used, and was timed by the second on cleaning the tables (maximum time: 30 seconds).

For my final tasks, I helped assemble orders for the drive-through and the counter. I dreaded these jobs. One look at the computers and at the long line of customers was enough to tax me. These tasks combined several talents: speed, dexterity, customer relations and photographic memory. By now, it was really obvious it was my first (and only) day, but the crew gave me superhuman patience and the encouragement that I needed.

The morning after

Here's a list of my fast-food strengths and weaknesses: I sucked at preparing hot dog sandwiches, but I did okay at assembling hamburgers. I enjoyed serving the food to customers, but was terrified by the cranky ones. It took me forever to make a serving of fries, but I could go for hours without breaks. I feared the faces of crabby customers, but I could do a 360-degree turn with 20 kg of fiberglass and foam on me.

I must have clocked in 13 hours for the entire weekend, but the experience was worth it. It was a job where the stress was rewarded by children's happy screams and the camaraderie among workers. I was allowed to keep the uniform; I just might wear it again one of these days.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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The nuts and bolts of being a plane mechanic

NOT AN ORDINARY FIELD TRIP. The author (extreme left) gets down and dirty with other boys.

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

A 2bU! writer gets an idea on why Seair is the only Philippine airline with a zero-accident rate

I RODE the "Jurassic," Seair's 19-seater LET410 plane that flew me to Clark for a day of grease and oil. It felt more like I was going to an exotic destination because of the plane's nature-themed exteriors and the airline's reputation of making do with the hardly ideal airports and airstrips of Caticlan, Boracay and El Nido, Palawan.

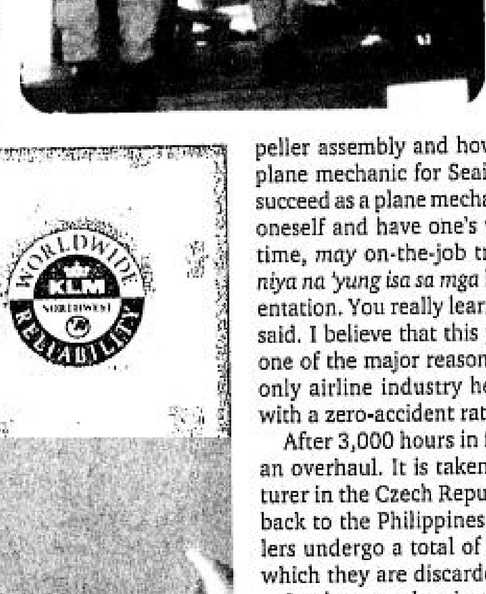
With Capt. Joseph Bustamante as pilot, the plane took off with me as the only passenger. I enjoyed the privacy of the plane while I took shots of the magnificent views. After only just 20 minutes on board, we landed smoothly on Seair's runway.

The place was serene, except that the Cessna plane reminded me of Aaliyah's tragic death. I was introduced to Capt. Julius Bernardo, Seair's executive assistant, and he gave me a brief tour around the hangar. The stock room was cold. This was one of Seair's ways of maintaining the quality of the planes' spare parts, from nuts and bolts, to tires and seats. "*Maselan pa sa babae ang eroplano*," he said, to stress how rigid the maintenance was for Seair planes.

Captain Jules was also kind enough to drive me to Clark Field's key places before I was handed over to maintenance director, Aldrin Cortez, who is responsible for maintaining and repairing the Seair fleet.

Greased and oiled

"Jurassic" was brought inside the hangar for inspection. The mechanics promptly brought in all the needed equipment. I was told by Mr. Aldrin to change to my mechanic's suit. Even before I finished donning the suit, the plane mechanics were already flocked around the plane, greased and perspiring, having dismantled the propellers quite easily. Whew, that was fast! Or was I only too slow? Either way, it was just the start of the tiresome and tedious check-up of the plane. Meanwhile, Jaime Rider, Seair's chief inspector, reminded me of my grandfather for his meticulousness. The process was so detailed as they checked even the minutest component of the plane.



Mr. Aldrin briefed me about the technical requirements of propeller assembly and how it was to work as a plane mechanic for Seair. He said in order to succeed as a plane mechanic, one must humble oneself and have one's work inspected. "One time, *may* on-the-job trainee *dito. Napansin niya na 'yung isa sa mga* harness *ay iba ang* orientation. You really learn from each other," he said. I believe that this practice of humility is one of the major reasons that made Seair the only airline industry here in the Philippines with a zero-accident rate.

After 3,000 hours in flight, a propeller gets an overhaul. It is taken back to its manufacturer in the Czech Republic and later brought back to the Philippines good as new. Propellers undergo a total of three overhauls, after which they are discarded.

I volunteered to install one of the propellers. Together with five crewmembers, I carried the propeller back to the plane. Not a Herculean task, but I had grease on my hands.

Zero gravity

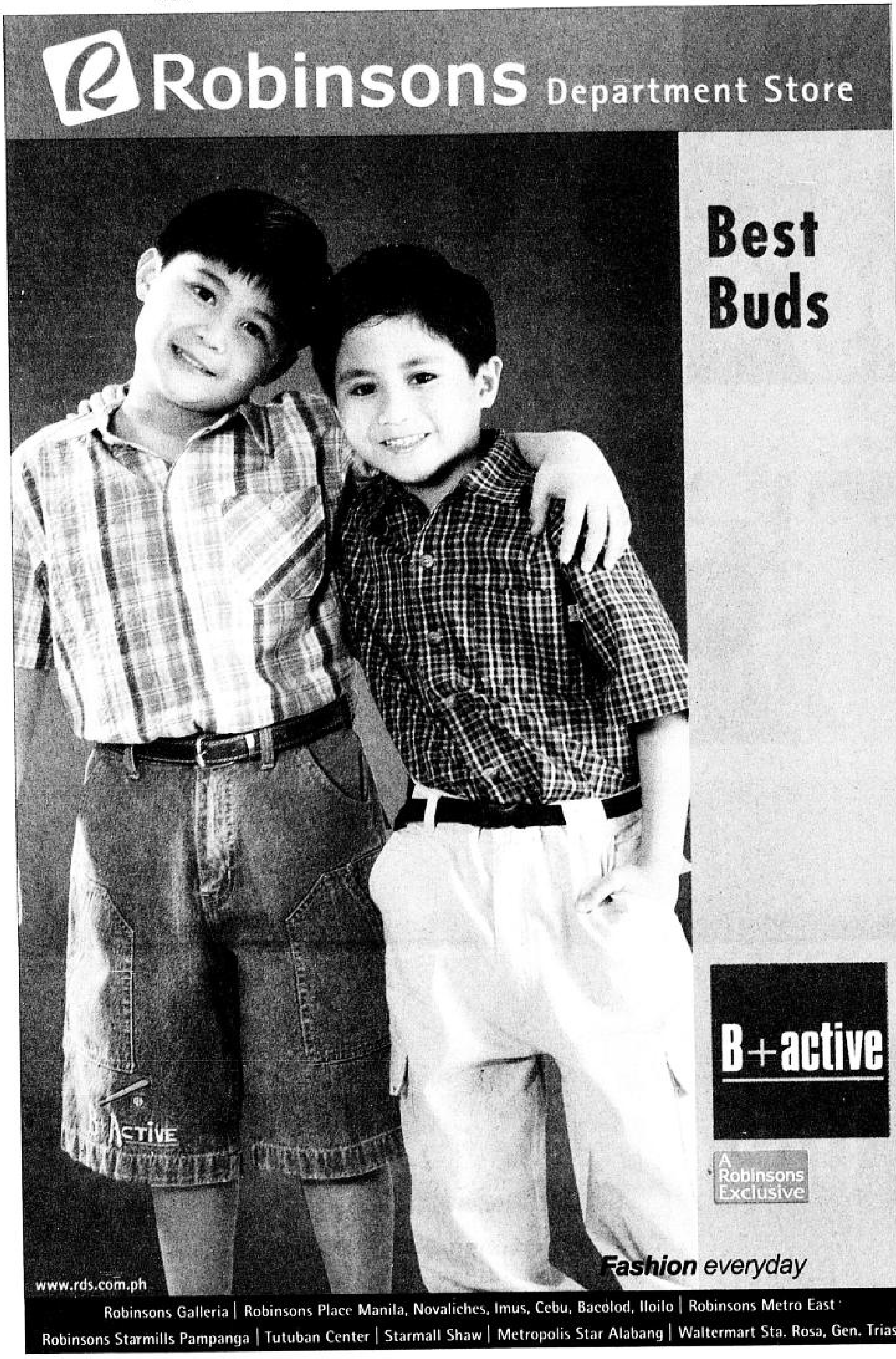
It was time for a test flight. Mr. Aldrin, tested the propellers and they looked and sounded perfect. Captain Joseph was again in charge of the plane. With some of the mechanics, we took off.

I became oblivious of the stress the day had brought me. We were flying and those propellers made it all possible.

I was awed at the sight of Mount Pinatubo when, suddenly, the plane went into zero gravity. It was a thrill. It was way better than riding a roller coaster with all the G-forces combined.

Seair normally does zero gravity during test flights and I was very lucky to be part of that. Of course, that never happens during a normal flight. But if that happens one day during one of my flights with Seair, then it will be an add-on to a fine trip. How I wish!

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@ edsamail.com.ph



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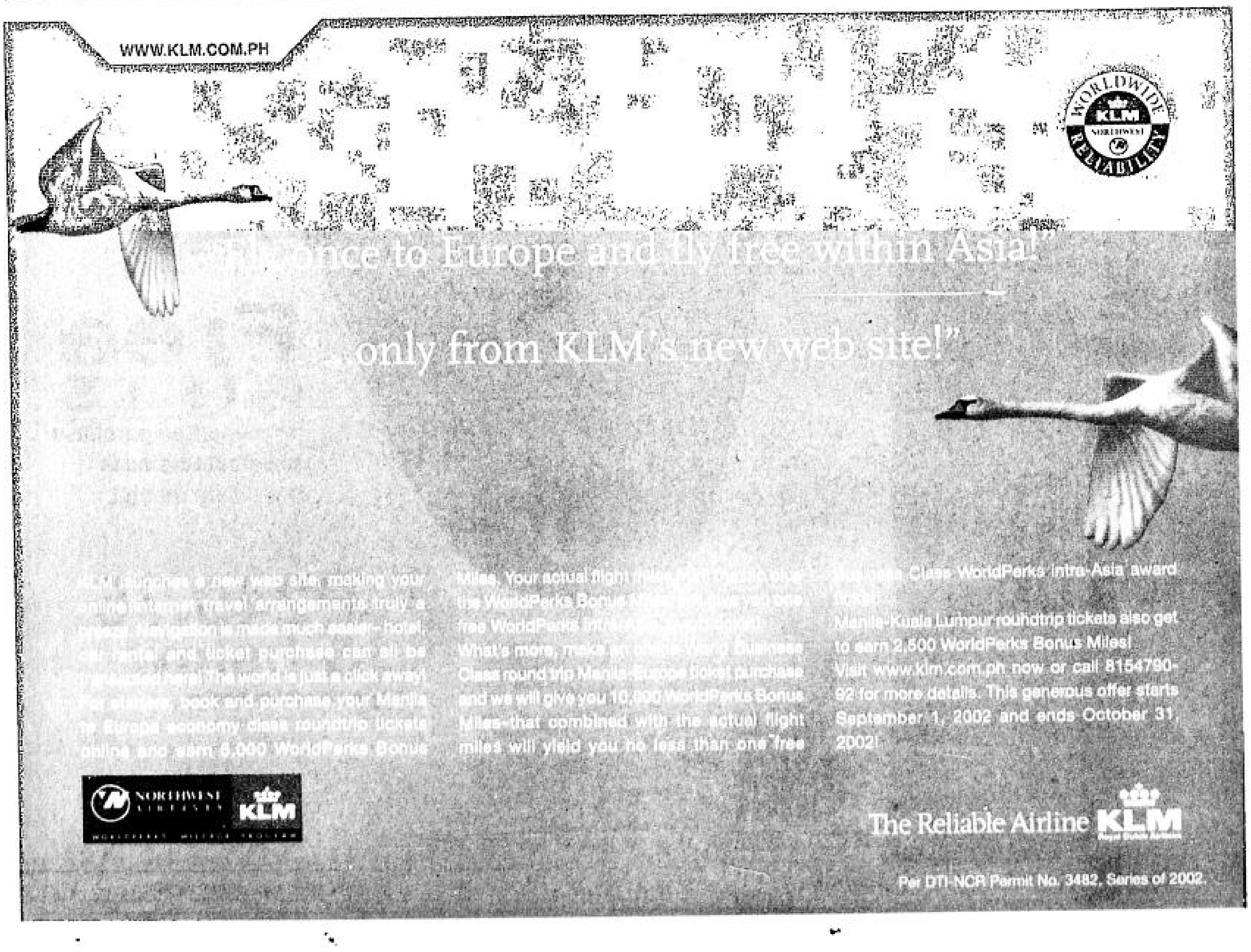

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Going in Vancouver

Traveling alone affords one to learn lessons of loneliness, strength and building friendships

A STREET lined with cherry blossoms, which blooms only once a week annually.

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

IF you wish for peace and calm, then a vacation in Vancouver in spring may be just what you need.

Vancouverites say that Vancouver is loveliest during spring when the air is tinged with the sweet scent of pine, when the cherry blossom is just blooming and when the snow-capped Rockies looms on the horizon. After two years in college, amid the frazzle of midterms, deadlines and presentations, I felt that it was time to revisit the place.

When I was 13, my best friend and I spent summer in Vancouver on our own. Last summer, I went by myself. Initially, my younger brother was to accompany me, but he decided to stay home and spend vacation with the girl he was courting.

The idea of exploring Vancouver on my own didn't daunt me. In fact, the thought of absolute freedom for two months just thrilled me. What I didn't expect was the occasional moments of loneliness and a constant craving for a ready ear and a reassuring laugh only a travel-mate could provide. Peace and calm, indeed, has its price.

Adventures

Armed with only a guidebook, a bus pass, a map of the Lower Mainland (which included Vancouver and its neighboring cities), I set out on the streets of Vancouver.

Every day was unique. One hour, I was enjoying a latte in a café at the cobble-stoned streets of Gastown, the next I was having a Greek feast at the Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver. I ticked off every tourist attraction recommended by the guidebook: universities, galleries, casinos, museums, mountain resorts, science centers and parks.

I was not disappointed, but the real adventure was in places outside of the guidebook when I simply hopped on a bus not knowing where I was going and what I was going to do.

During my first trip to Vancouver, I remembered conducting a mad shopping spree in Metrotown (Lower Mainland's version of Megamall) and Robson Street (think Rodeo Drive of Beverly Hills). But on my recent trip, shopping lost its charm after I realized how expensive everything was when converted to pesos. That is, until I discovered thrift-buying.

Good finds

With the help of the yellow pages and the dailies, I combed the city in search of thrift stores, consignment shops, flea markets and garage sales. My patience and perseverance was rewarded with good finds: a Griffin and Sabine book ($1) at a thrift store in downtown Vancouver, a Nine West black leather tote ($8) in a Salvation Army store in North Vancouver, a Versace purse ($10) for my mom in a consignment shop in Kerrisdale.

But what I liked most about thrift-buying is getting to know the people behind these stores. I swapped stories with an elderly Irish thrift storeowner who, I found out, didn't really need the money she earned from her shop. She was already well-off enough. I listened to more of her accounts before I bade her farewell, and then she removed something from her lapel and placed it in mine. It was a tiny pin of the Canadian flag, "because you're very nice," she said. I was

GOING/ p.F2

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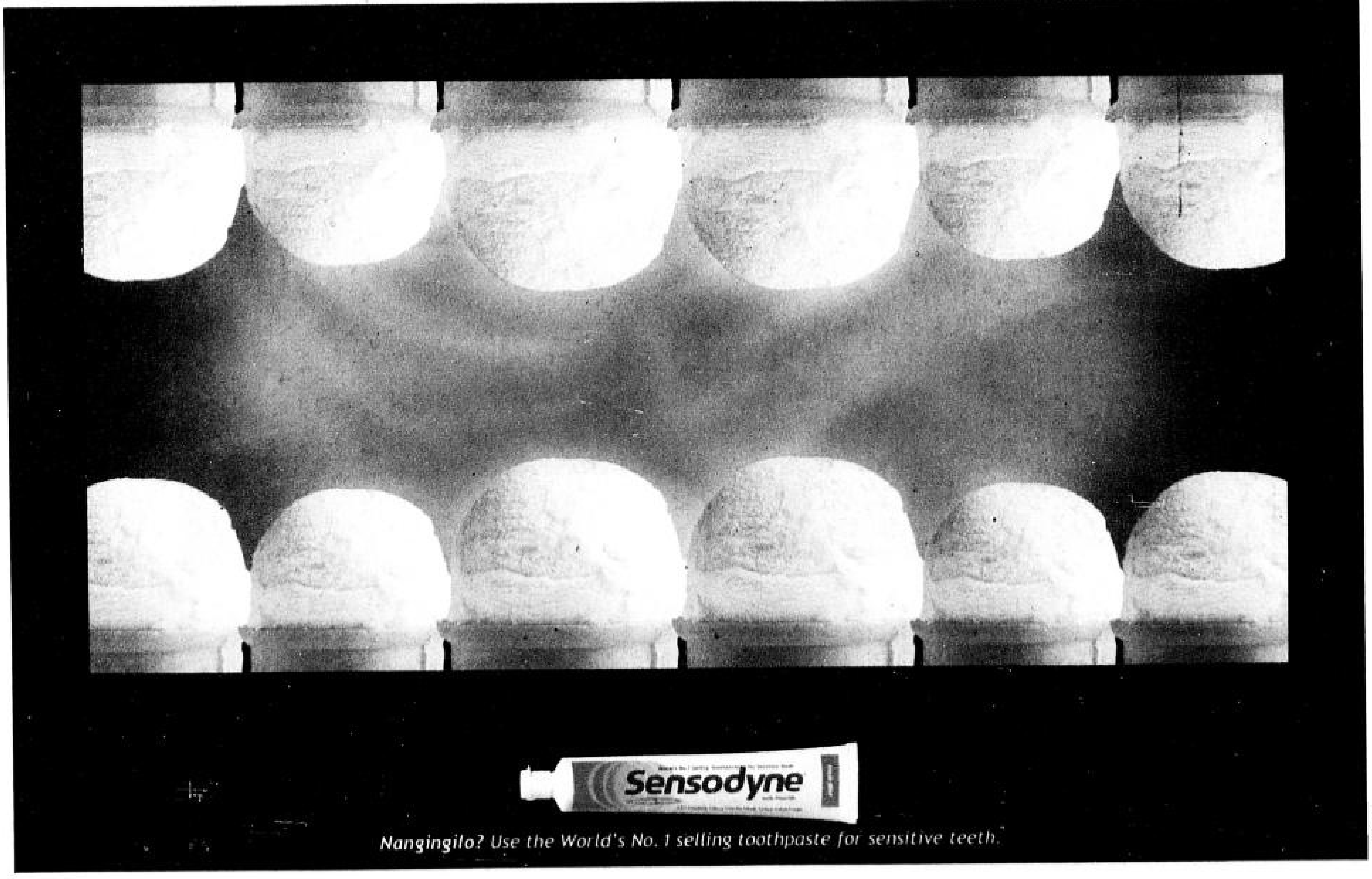

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STEAM CLOCK

GASTOWN'S steam clock, which blows a musical salute every 15 minutes

THE AUTHOR at a bus stop in the downtown Waterfront station

Going solo in Vancouver

From page F1

touched. She told me it was her good-luck charm, and it was pinned to her whenever she traveled abroad. "Now, it will go to the Philippines," I told her. She laughed and asked me to visit her again soon.

As I boarded the plane going home, I had a nagging feeling that I forgot something. Now it came to me: I never visited my Irish friend again.

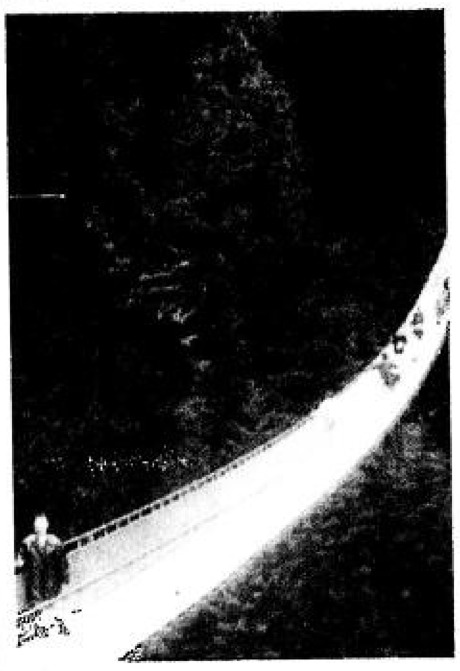
Flirting

One of the things I mastered in my first few days of my two-month trip was the art of dining alone. What I failed to perfect was how to act when someone joins you while you are doing so. Come to think of it, there is no crash course in the art of flirting with strangers, especially if you were brought up the Maria Clara way like me.

If you are female and alone most of the time, chances are you'll bump into ready Canadian bachelors who are happy to get to know you. Or at least ask you out for coffee. You meet them everywhere: the library, the gym and at the streets. At first, I found their brashness rude, and I was unable to react to their come-ons. But, like all things, I got used to it. I soon welcomed the freshness of simply introducing yourself to anyone you fancy without inhibitions. Also, it was a great way to meet cute guys. With the experience, I found out that with an open mind and a ready smile, you can talk to just about anyone.

There is something magical about traveling alone, something enchanting about not knowing how your day will turn out or what you will see but certain that it will be wonderful, because it is something novel. Something you have never experienced before.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com



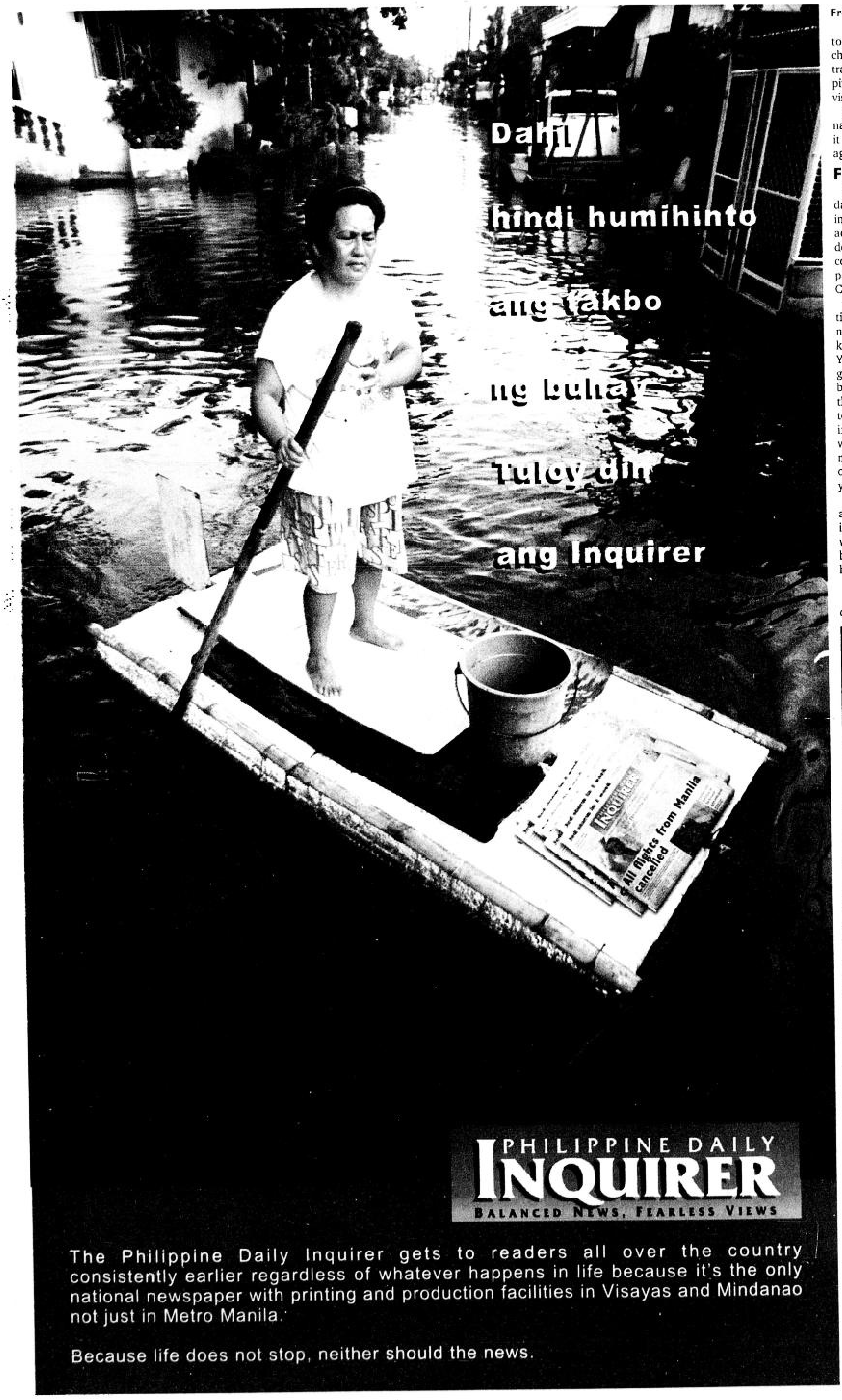
THE BREATHTAKING view of the Capilano Suspension Bridge in North Vancouver

Tattoo convention set during grand sale

AVAIL of big discounts from The Outlet Yard's retail shops like Maldita, Dickies, Hammerhead, Anonymous, Penshoppe, Oxygen and Fred Perry on Sept. 27-28.

The Outlet Yard will also host Ink Xposure 2002, a tattoo convention. Activities include a live tattoo competition and one-of-a-kind seminars of noted practitioners of Kalinga/Cordillera tattoo, exquisite art tattoo and tribal tattoo. There will be jam sessions by popular progressive bands like Fatal Posporos, Itchyworms, Maple Syrup and Slapshock during the two-day event.

The Outlet Yard is the "Araw-Araw Sale Mall" located on Quezon Avenue, near National Bookstore. Call 373-3528.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Because life does not stop, neither should the news.

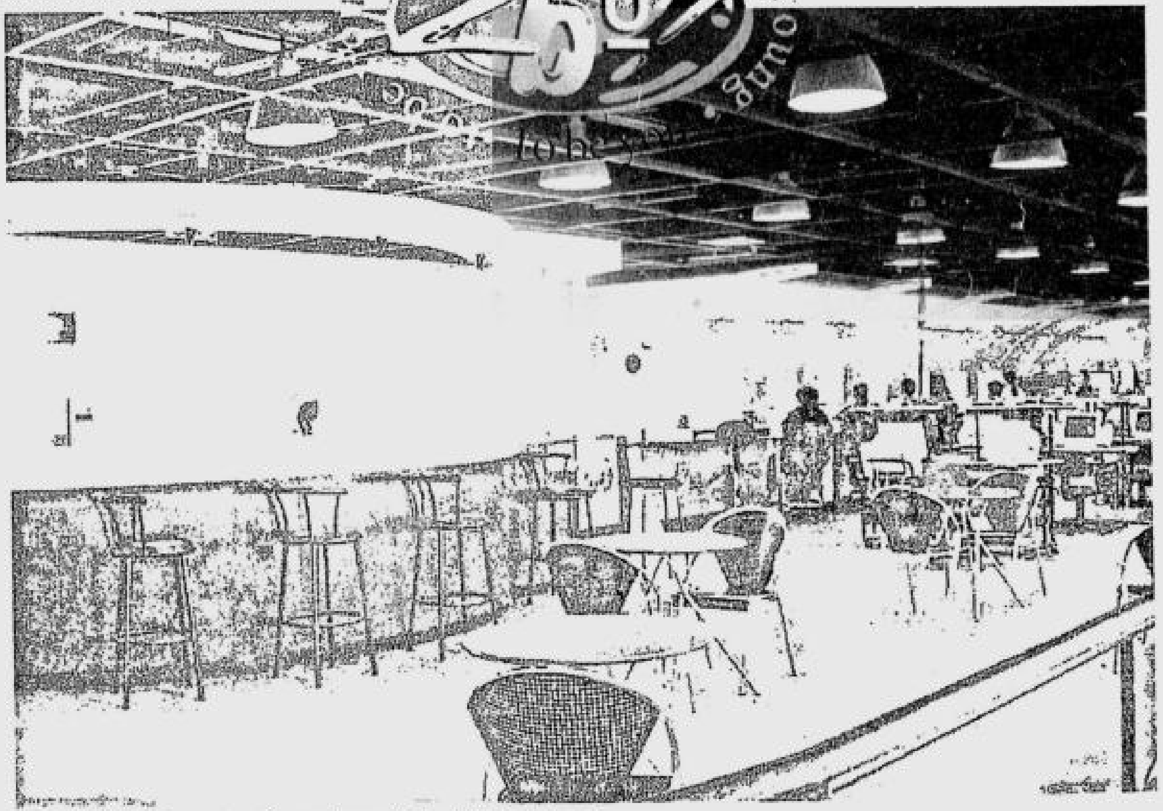
New techies haven

TECHIES, who can't get enough of the latest gadgets and gizmos, should check out a new site, the Cyberzone at SM City North Edsa and SM Southmall.

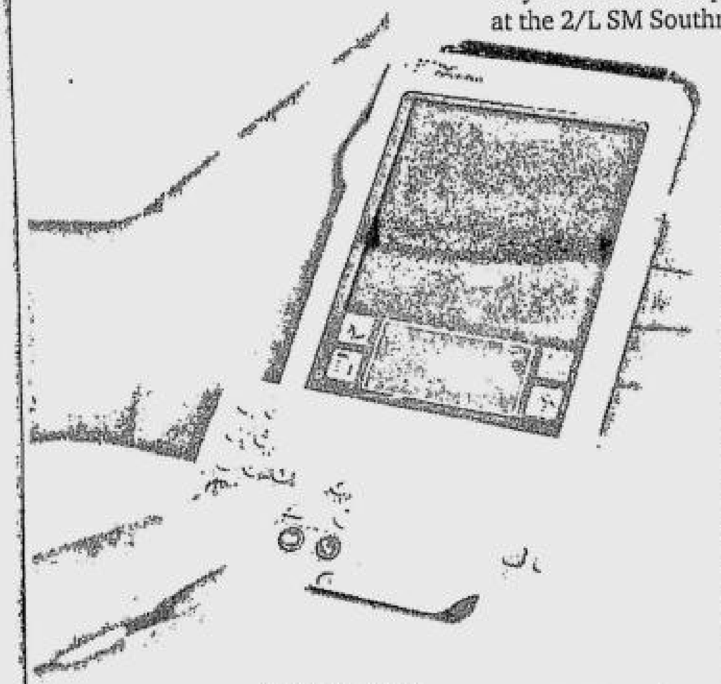
The row of computer shops, Internet and gaming cafés and telecommunications stores should prove to be an exciting place for the wired set. Informatics president and CEO Leo Riingen, Trapik.com's Mike Johnson and Razorback's Louie Talan are among those who think Cyberzone is the coolest place for techies.

The Cyberzone, Riingen said, offered a variety of products with different features, making the selection process easier. Johnson, an American who has lived in the Philippines since 1992, said Cyberzone saved a lot of time having so many shops in just one place. Talan said Cyberzone gave people a lot of options.

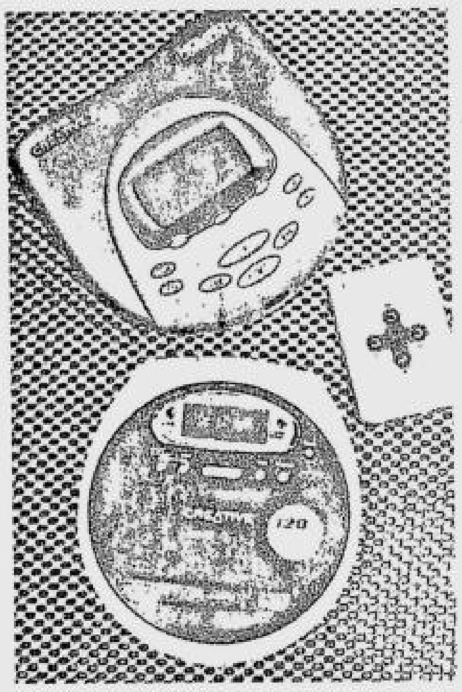
Cyberzones has over 50 computer superstores, shops, schools, Internet cafés and gaming centers at the SM City North Edsa Carpark Plaza and 30 at the 2/L SM Southmall.



DISCOVERY Computer Superstore at the SM Southmall



SONY Clie PEG T665C, a personal digital assistant with buil-in audio player



MP3 players from Creative: the Nomad Jukebox, the CD-MP3 and Digital MP3 player

Original formulations in new skincare line

LUSH launches a new and reformulated range of highly effective and original formulations.

Each Lush cleanser, toner and moisturizer contains natural ingredients: carefully blended plants, flower absolutes and the finest essential oils. Selected products use fresh, organic, nutritious fruits and vegetables in their whole form to harness the protective features of vitamins, minerals, proteins and enzymes.

The founders of Lush have explored skincare regimens for 20 years, evaluating the complexions of people all over the world. This has resulted in a series of practical cleansers, toners and moisturizers developed for real people.

Product creator Helen Ambrosen, who is also responsible for Lush's fresh skincare products, says freshness is intrinsic to Lush, minimizing the use of synthetics. She notes that vitamins, minerals and enzymes are buzzwords in modern skin care. For the new look skincare range, prices start at P195 for cleansers, toners at P295, moisturizers from P475, and Lush's most expensive single skincare product to date, at P1,450.

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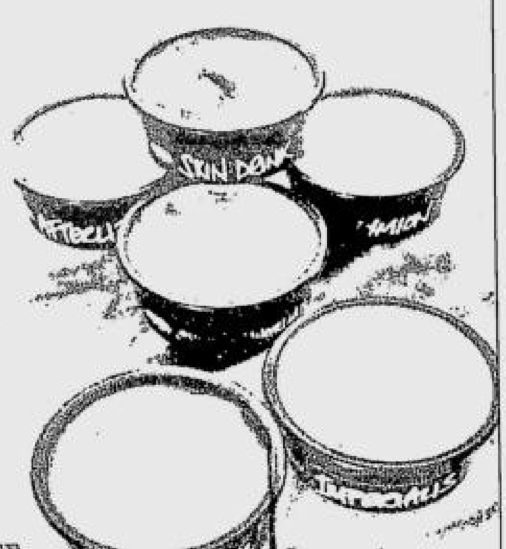

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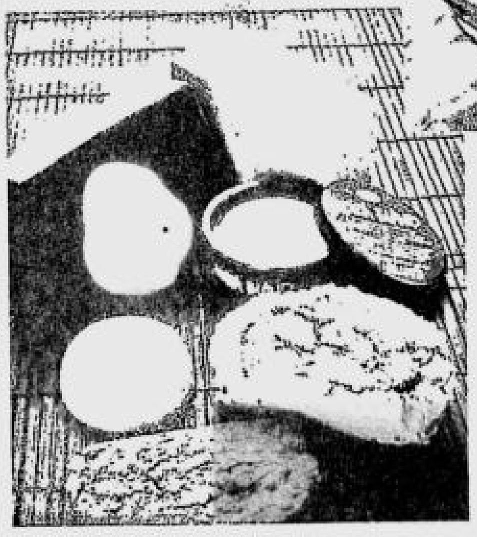

CLEANSERS LINE. Ultra Bland, Angels on Bareskin, Herbalism, Baby Face, Sweet Japanese Girl, Coal Face and Fresh Farmacy

School uniform reconstructed

A/X Armani Exchange for Fall 2002 reconstructs the school uniform.

This season the uniform becomes an extension of the wearer—customized, untucked and undone.

New designs encourage self-expression. Elements of rugby punk blend with softer features. Traditional shapes are deconstructed and school wear becomes sexy.

Colors are black and gray, relieved by shots and streams of white. Accents in bright green, myriad blues and vivid reds make the style more upbeat.

Denim can be patched, streaked, washed and faded, while corduroy is customized.

Girls get deconstructed kilts and sweatshirts, ruched varsity jackets and elegantly waisted rugby shirts, among others. Tank tops come with chain straps and leather piecing.

The boys get washed-and-worn pea coats. Heavy-looking sweaters are actually completed in lightweight acrylic. Stretch denim comes in washed waves while jeans feature worn patch details, colored and coated.

Accessories include rich, pony-skin bags. Suede and fringing are added to totes and clutches, while belts range from corset snug to equestrian edgy. Jaunty, distressed motorcycle caps complete the look.

A/X Armani Exchange's Fall 2002 collection is available at A/X stores in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center. A/X Armani Exchange is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

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'Survivor: Thailand' hot, UAAP cheering sportsmanship hotter

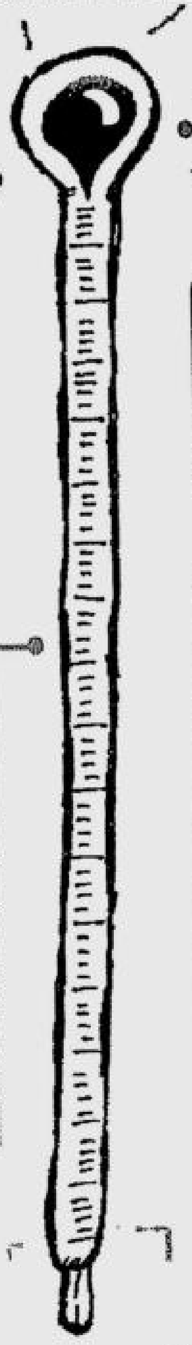
The Nestlé Non-Stop Cheerdance Competition. UST bagged the top prize, UE was second, and UP was third. Ateneo wins a prize from us for having way cool costumes. But the best part for us was when the UE pep squad and fans joined the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe and the Tigers' fans in doing the "Go, USTE" cheer. Now that's what we call sportsmanship. *Galing.*

Bench/Bytes Real Potato Chips and Caramel Popcorn. Never mind that junk foods aren't considered healthy—they taste like heaven. These latest offerings from the giant retail outlet are so good we can't stop munching them. Now, if they only come in packages that have Borgy in them...

"Survivor: Thailand." This season's batch of "Survivor" castaways are probably the hottest ever. They are relatively younger, thus they boast of well-sculpted bodies. Even the more mature contestants don't look that old. According to producer Mark Burnett, viewers can expect all-new challenges. Reports say there will be brawling between two guys in the third episode.

Not-so-Smart roaming. A 2bU! writer took his mobile phone to Bangkok to meet his friends there for shopping. It was a delightful experience, except that he didn't get to meet all his mates. Every time they would decide on a meeting spot, they would text to remind each other of their meeting times. It was not that easy, for he got his messages five hours late.

Quick action. Just last week, we complained about the services of a waiter with a major attitude problem. On the very same day it was published, we were contacted by the biggies of Whistlestop who promised that they would take action on the matter. It turned out we weren't the first group to complain about that waiter.



Zest-O's Dalandan Soda. We are hooked. Finally, a company that realizes a product doesn't have to be a Western copycat to be good. Give us more!

Topshop is tops. Shopaholics have found another haven in Topshop (located in Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Ermita). Our favorite finds? Colorful undies, really funky socks, swell jackets and cool coats. Warning: bring loads of cash.

Two Emmys for "Friends." After eight years of waiting, "Friends" finally took home (err, coffee shop, rather) its first Emmy for Best Comedy Series. Jennifer Aniston won for lead actress in a comedy series.

Alexanders the Greats. Those of you who know nothing about Alexander the Great, prepare for three history lessons on one the most powerful generals of all time. In 2003, three Hollywood productions are set to release their versions of the Macedonian hero. Being shot right now is Baz Luhrmann's, where Leonardo DiCaprio (above) plays Alex. Oliver Stone's will feature Colin Farrell, while Martin Scorsese's is still on hold.

Carbon at Greenbelt. To satisfy any urbanite's craving for utilitarian bags with that hip edge, there's Carbon at the new Greenbelt mall. It has great urban gear designed by Raul Francisco for men and women, from classic frame bags to cutting-edge and avant-garde vertical messengers to portfolios and wallets. These hot bags take you from day to night—you can wear them with a suit in the morning, and you can wear them with your Pumas and go clubbing by night. What more can you ask for?

FPJ for President? Assunta running for Congress? *Ano ba?* Give us a break!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Should 'martial law' be imposed in the bedroom?

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

There has been a lot of talk on martial law lately. Personally, I [agree with] some people [who think we] need disciplinarian rule. Although I would still like to see girls being fashionably sexy, I think that boys and girls should have some rules when it comes to "doing the deed," so to speak.

If you were to impose martial law in the bedroom, what would be the first three decrees that you would make, and why?

ZORRO

First, I would have to say that there should be no rules in the bedroom, except for honesty: that means no faking. Every expression must be genuine and heartfelt, be it boredom, embarrassment or a sudden need to go to the bathroom and vomit. There should be no hostage dramas, no victims and no suspicions of sabotage.

It is so typical of Filipinos, especially politicians, to blame their woes on imagined plots to destabilize the administration. I think that, short of declaring your assets and liabilities, you must be forthcoming in what you are capable of. If you have shortcomings and they tend to appear all too soon, then there have to be other ways of guaranteeing mutual satisfaction.

Second, there is no such thing as too much, too many or too funky. One of God's greatest gifts, aside from the present subject of discourse, is the power of imagination. The more muscles you use in any exercise, the more calories you burn and, in the long run, you'll have a better grasp of yourself—a healthier relationship and better skin in days.

The only restriction should be when one gets too tired or the whole thing becomes too painful. The best cure for that is a lot of rest, drinking lots of liquid and waiting until the morning.

Third and last, never stop trying. That means if you don't find the right angle, the right time of day or even the right partner, all you've got to do is to keep looking for the right one. When the student is ready, the master will appear.

CALOY

One of my first decrees would be similar to Caloy's: There should be honesty in the bedroom. Whatever happens between a couple should not be a public performance by any measure (unless they're actors in a porn flick), so there would be no need to put up a show. No faking of orgasms, no insincere compliments about the sizes of each other's body parts, and no pretension of liking a position or an act when one is actually uncomfortable with it. And absolutely no denying that one likes something! It's already the bedroom—no, the bed—and the unnecessary clothes have already been disposed of. Pretentious niceties and prudish tendencies would have to be checked at the door.

Second decree: When the couple is comfortable about being honest with each other, they would have to promise to at least try to keep their minds open about sex and all the things that come with it. The guy admits to being uncomfortable about going down on a girl: that's okay. That's still lawful. But if he insists that he would never ever do it or even consider doing it in his lifetime, then he's being a narrow-minded jerk.

The same rule would also apply to the girl. Both parties should find out new and more imaginative ways to pleasure each other, as well as to educate themselves about sex. I don't think this rule is difficult or unreasonable; after all, doing this would be for each partner's benefit.

My last decree would be that couples do the deed willingly. One party cannot force the other to have sex if the latter is not feeling up to it. The rule of honesty also applies here, although sometimes, a decree is not enough to overcome the boundaries set by emotions. For example, if the guy doesn't feel like having sex but his partner really wants to do it, then it's up to him to decide if he would indulge her desire. All this basically requires clarity of mind, of purpose, of intent.

SEP

Don't let your looks be tied up in a ponytail

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

I AM convinced that most girls these days, mod though they may be, have a hair IQ under the below-average category. Yes, even when knowledgeable of the most high-tech beauty gadgetry and makeup techniques that would put Bobbi Brown to shame, most of us are still style-challenged when it comes to hair dos (and don'ts, I must add).

Let's all be honest here. After spending countless hours primping and pampering ourselves with facials, manicures, massages and foot scrubs, we can still be salon-phobic. We even have stories to explain this extraordinary phenomenon: After seeing one of Meg Ryan's cheesy romantic movies that showcased the versatility of her hair more than her acting, you immediately ran to the salon where you whipped out a picture of that amazing crop the minute your butt landed on the seat. Your heart raced as beloved strands fell, anticipating the look you entrusted your stylist to duplicate. You look up, holding your breath, and voila! You look like Nicolas Cage. So you make a hasty exit and vow never to chop off your locks again.

Years and inches of re-growth later, we claim to "know better" and hold on to our ponytails like life savings. Today's most requested style is the "Half-inch trim *lang,*" probably a major reason salons are going out of business. So I say it is time to help solve the unemployment problem and to get reacquainted with Mr. Shears.

To raise our hair IQ, it is important to review and revive our attitudes first. If you relate to one or more of these, you could be limiting your style options and shying away from what could be your most fabulous look ever.

Hair scare No. 1. "Long hair is my only shot at being beautiful."

Shampoo manufacturers are making big bucks selling hair-growing concoctions that promise instant additional inches to your mane. With the Rapunzel-incarnate models on TV ads, you get another twisted view on beauty. But it is not totally surprising considering the aesthetic ideals our society has held since Maria Clara.

To some, however, long hair is more of a bane. Long tresses tend to "drag down" the appearance of the vertically challenged, emphasizing the lack of height and creating an illusion of disproportion. Also, any extra inch to the hair could mean that features are overpowered instead of highlighted, especially among those with small faces and defined bone structure. These assets deserve to be shown off with a chic bob. Beauty doesn't come in a uniform package. Being confident in your own skin, in this case, your own hair is what beauty is about.

Hair scare No. 2. "My boyfriend might fret if I cut my hair."

I had the biggest horror of my life when my boyfriend showed up at a party with a shaven head. Needless to say, I hated it (sorry, dear)! Two years later, we are still together. See? It's not so bad. You're supposed to love each other through thick and thin... including botched haircuts. Besides, hair grows back! Now if he breaks up with you because he thinks your haircut makes you look like a poodle, he's a jerk. But that's another story.

Hair scare No. 3. "There are more styling alternatives for long hair."

Leave it down on Monday, put it up in a ponytail on Tuesday, leave it down and part your hair another way on Wednesday, put it up in a half-ponytail on Thursday... sounds interesting? Not. These days, shorter cuts enjoy greater adaptability to a variety of looks, given the right products, of course. The carefree tousle, the sleek and polished, the bedhead—the list of choices goes on and on. Beats that ho-hum ponytail any day, don't you think?

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Hair scare No. 4. "Short hair makes me look like a *siopao.*"

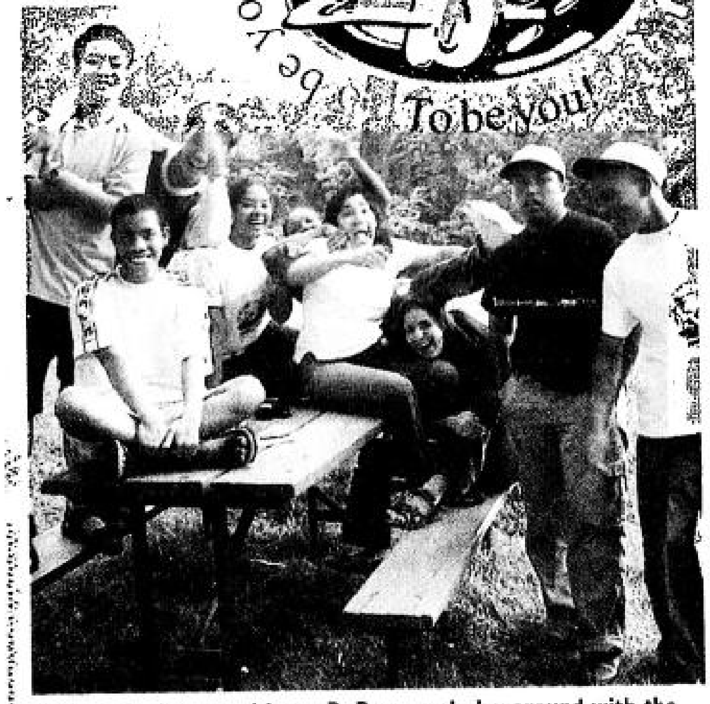
I admit that I'm guilty of this misconception, too. I kept a chin-length cut for most of my life. But now looking at old pictures of me with that 'do is just agony. I'd always be reminded of how Judy Ann Santos looked before she lost the excess pounds. She also looks better with the shorter, layered cut she wears now. It's just a matter of finding the right cut, having strategically placed layers... I'll leave the technicalities to your stylist (who, I would assume, knows hair). Get rid of the idea that less inches on your hair mean more on your face. I now know that I just had a terribly unflattering cut as a kid. Plus I was really fat.

Hair scare No. 5. "Give me (Hollywood actress') cut."

Much as Jennifer Aniston's 'do is globally revered and copied, even the most precise cutting methodology wouldn't give you the exact results. What? You actually expect a pair of scissors to work some magic to make Brad Pitt notice you? Fact is, most of us mere mortals do not have these celebrities' genes, face shape, or bone structure. What looks fantastic on Ashley Judd may look hideous on you, so don't demand for that exact cut. Ask your stylist instead to interpret a celebrity's cut in a way that suits you, double chin, wide jaw and all.

Let me make one thing clear though: I am not suggesting you rush to the nearest salon and go for the shortest cut possible. This is not about hair length, but rather about style. I myself keep my mane long simply because, personally, it's a whole lot easier to manage. Long or short isn't the only decision to make when having a haircut. Hair type, bone structure, facial contours and features, maintenance and, of course, personal lifestyle should be taken into account.

The best hairstyle should be tailor-fit to the individual who wears it. Once you've figured out your own specifications, you can get to the next step: finding the stylist who can respond to your needs. That could be another challenge, but hey, I never said having perfect hair was easy.



EDEL S. Garingan and Larry B. Barcancel play around with the youth delegates and coordinators from Colombia.

ALL the International Youth Conference youth delegates and coordinators from the 16 Children International agencies from Asia, South America and North America during the city tour Kansas City, Missouri

Young man's big dreams starting to come true

LARRY Barcancel, 18, lives in Sitio Diwa, a poor community in Camarin, Caloocan City. Since his father left the family, his mother Luminada has become the sole breadwinner, earning P5,000 a month as a vendor. They live in a one-room home with no running water but with access to community faucets.

But recently, one of Barcancel's big dreams came true. He went to the United States, his first trip outside the Philippines.

"We were in the plane for 17 hours, traveling at 20,000 ft above sea level. It was a thrilling experience!" he enthused.

Abot Kamay Inc., through Children International, an organization helping poor children throughout the world, brought Larry and seven other Filipino youth delegates to Kansas City, Missouri, for the first International Youth Conference (IYC) on June 10-15. Barcancel is a member of the Abot Kamay Youth Council, an organization of almost 7,000 sponsored youths that aim to develop their potentials so they can make positive changes in their lives. Many young leaders in impoverished communities who want to make a difference come from the Youth Council.

Barcancel joined 35 poor young people from nine other countries — Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nepal and the US. The (IYC) delegates stayed in Camp Shawnee, Parkville, Missouri, which was designed specifically for team building and strengthening leadership skills.

"We took part in physical and mental challenge courses at the camp. Despite language barriers and cultural differences, we discovered ways to work together and enjoy the activities. At Rockhurst University, we exchanged ideas and strategies in planning, implementing and monitoring programs," Barcancel said. "Kansas City was refreshingly different—the environment, the roads, the culture. I was a bit nervous at first but I eventually enjoyed the new surroundings."

Barcancel became a Children International-sponsored child through Abot Kamay Inc. at age 8. The sponsorship entitles him to assistance in education and health care, as well as other benefits. He is now a third year engineering student at the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

"We all have our strengths and weaknesses, but if we all work together, we can do a lot! We can make a difference in our own communities. The IYC has taught me that," he said.

Abot Kamay Inc. is a nonstock, nonprofit humanitarian organization dedicated to delivering social welfare services to help improve the quality of life of poverty-stricken children. Organized and incorporated on Oct. 17, 1990, it implements a sponsorship program for more than 16,000 children and their families in impoverished areas in Quezon City, Caloocan City and the province of Bulacan. The programs are designed to help meet many of the children's most urgent and basic needs and give them tools to overcome poverty.

Funding for these programs is derived from contributions to Children International, a nonprofit organization established in 1936 and based in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. Children International pairs poor children with sponsors who help provide for their basic needs. Its programs benefit over 230,000 children and their families in the 10 countries represented in the IYC conference. Aside from Abot Kamay Inc., it also funds Unang Lingap Kapwa Philippines Inc. in QC; Child Sponsorship for Community Development I in Tabaco, Albay; and Child Sponsorship for Community Development II in Legazpi City. For more information about Children International, visit www.children.org.

Norwegian band will open new youth place

D'SOUND, a Norwegian band, is back with its third album "Talkin' Talk." For the very first time, Simone (vocals), Jonny (bass) and Kim (drums) did the production work themselves for the 13 strong pieces of acoustic, rhythmic, melodic and crisp pop music.

The band will also be performing in Manila for the first time on Oct. 12 to launch the new youth zone of Shangri-La Plaza Mall called "The 5th."

D'Sound was formed in 1993 in a damp Oslo basement. It hit the Norwegian charts with the single "Real Name," which topped both sales and radio charts. The debut album "Spice of Life," released in 1997, established the group as a major band in the Norwegian music scene. The band's music fused elements from acid jazz, soul, funk, pop and drum'n'bass. "Spice of Life" was nominated for two Spellemann-prises, the Norwegian equivalent of the Brits and Grammies. D'Sound also enjoyed success with singles like "Smooth Escape" and "All I Wanna Do."

The 1998 follow-up album "Beauty is a Blessing" featured an even heavier influence from drum'n'bass and modern soul. The record earned the group a Spellemannpris for "Best Norwegian Pop Group" that same year. The singles "Ain't Giving Up" and "Down on the Street" became massive chart busters. "Down on the Street" even entered UK club charts. "Beauty is a Blessing" has gone platinum, although it was not released internationally.

The band took a short break before working on "Talkin' Talk" in March 2000. Band members produced the album themselves, joining forces with long-time collaborator and keyboardist Stein Austrud. The 13 songs in the album were first developed in Jonny's home studio during a long, creative process. The group played around and experimented with each other's song ideas to come up with an exciting and satisfactory product.

In "Talkin' Talk," the band showed its passion for modern American R&B. Inspiration came from Angie Stone, d'Angelo, Jill Scott and Erykah Badu, among others. Members describe the work on the album as a big challenge, groove-wise.

D'Sound had the album mixed in Virginia Beach, USA, one of the world's leading R&B scenes, working with the highly acclaimed mixer Serban Ghenea.

The title "Talkin' Talk" is one of the band members' own expressions, referring to the "constructive fighting" within the band as they worked on the album.

In March and April, D'Sound had successful tours in Norway, doing songs from the new album. They were joined on the tour by well-known international musicians. Backup vocalists from the US had previously toured with Angie Stone and Erykah Badu. DJ Kemit, one of the founders of Arrested Development, also helped strengthen the live shows. In addition, a group of national musicians joined the tour.

For info, visit the band's website at www.dsound.com.

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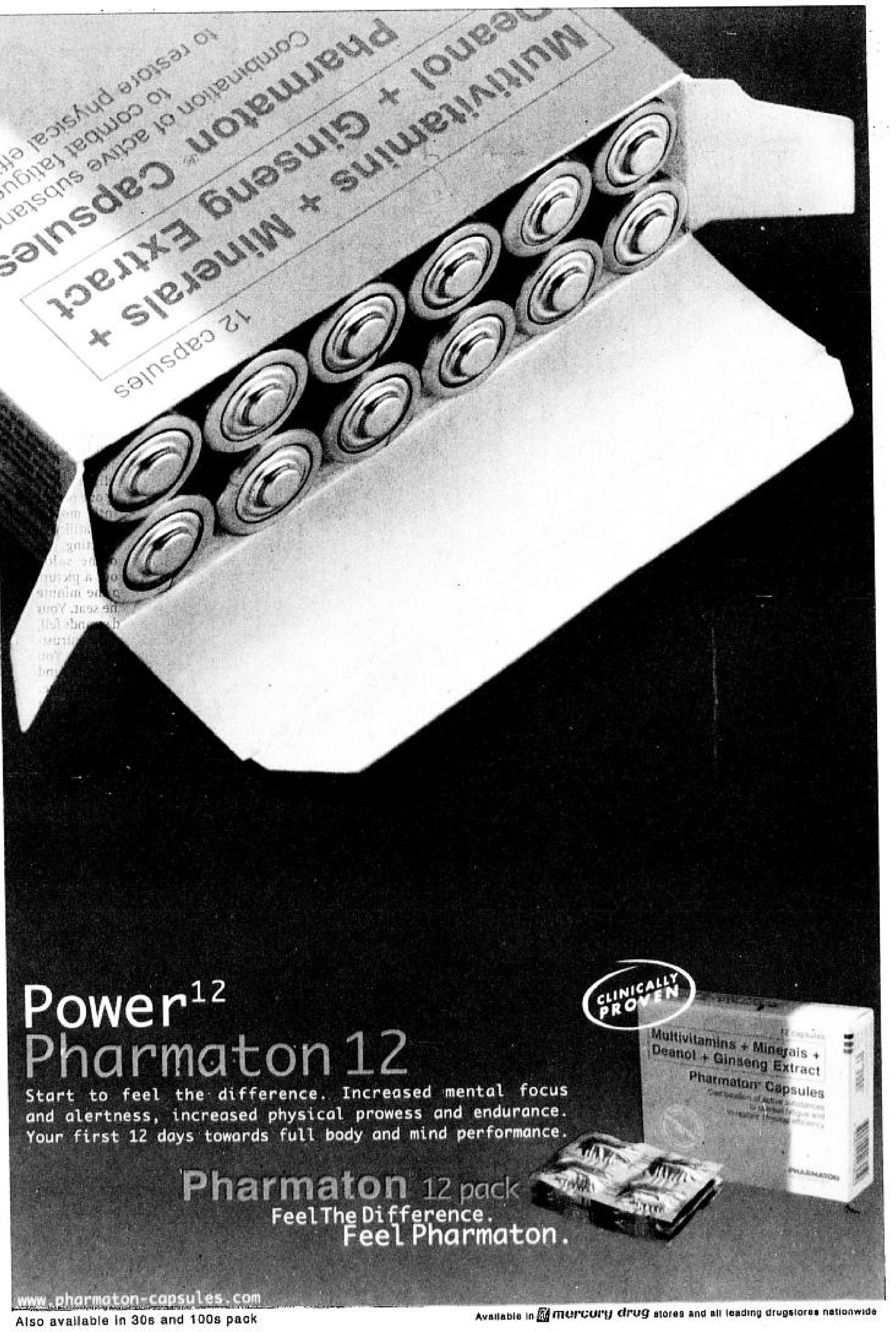
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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Chicken cubes for the brokenhearted soul

How to exorcise your ex from your system? Here are bitter nuggets of wisdom

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

TAKE it from me. I've tried cutting myself with a knife—the knife that came with my Chickenjoy, of course, and I've seen three shrinks (err, I'll be dead honest, make that five).

When you break up and break down, believe me when I tell you that it's not going to be hard. Dear, it's going to be @#%$ing hard. Say goodbye to that 24-inch waistline. Keep those tight pairs of jeans in storage and bring out a dozen of those chocolate-glazed doughnuts. Let's wallow in self-pity!

I'm not about to give you a good lecture on how to get over that butthead. You were in love with him and well, he was in love with himself. Nor am I going to tell you that you have to move on and all that inspiring, constructive crap. I've been told a million times before that "the best revenge is living well." I'm not saying that I don't buy it—I honest-to-goodness believe in it; though stubbornly, I choose to go on with my self-flagellation.

But if Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen supersaturated the reading market with their sob stories, it is but my duty and calling to put in my puny share of therapeutic nuggets.

Solid support system

Life, though rudely humorous, was compassionate enough to provide me with a solid support system in my lonely hours of desolation and desperation. I became a spineless woman with a brain of unconvoluted fat, but the loving people around me refused to watch my IQ plummet to 10. My incomparably fantabulous family and equally heroic *barkada* kept me stiff and standing. My depression had gotten to such a severe condition that if they had to tie me to a surfboard just to keep me up and running, they would.

Add all that to good, quiet company, and comforting, loving ears. They offered me real empathy and loyal hearts. They were treasures, sparkling gems and angels who knew not what it meant to love one day and to leave the next.

Even people whom I barely knew contributed greatly to the picture of resilience that I have been faking for almost a good year now. To illustrate, I had an interesting meeting with a brilliant *manghuhula* named Alex Angeles, who enthusiastically offered to light a black candle in the name of my ex. I had not even begun speaking when he started to reprimand me for being such a victim, a pushover. "*Hija, mga martir, binabaril sa Luneta.*" I hadn't even begun crying when he started describing the pain that was within me and the many ways with which I had allowed my ex to violate me and punish me even in his absence. Alex offered to burn his black soul to oblivion, and damn him to wretchedness in this life and the next. Very, very tempting.

However, realizing the extreme complexity of karma and its dynamics, and without consultation or consent from Jaime Licauco, I refused to burn his soul to damnation and opted to behave like mama's good little girl instead.

Violence

On top of that, a sympathizing friend from a prominent fraternity presented a first-rate opportunity to me for vengeance in its rawest, purest and most immediate form—violence in its most redemptive kind. It was a blame-free smash-and-bash offer that no woman could possibly refuse, and was therefore granted every inch of consideration by my already irrational brain at work. But since I was irrational, I declined and chickened out.

Since then, it has become my personal mission to make certain that while I remain abused and haunted by my own ghosts, and that while I remain smugly nestled inside the loony barn, I have campaigned for every woman to possess the kind of militancy and empowerment which I can only dream of having. Think women in purple shirts, marching with arms linked while screaming, "*Tama na! Sobra na!*" Think picketing in front of the male embassy and throwing cutlets of silicone implants and bags of liposuctioned fats from Vicki Belo's trash bin at the muscled guards who hammer us mercilessly with the phallic symbol that is the familiar *batuta*. Let the matriarchs of this world rule.

Bitter lines

To get us started, I'd like to share something that I serendipitously chanced upon while surfing the Net. Here's a good litany of bitter lines you'll never find inside the cheesy four corners of those steamy romance novels. Believe that you have more reason *not* to mope around the house for the bastard and a half who just lost his ticket to real happiness in life. I don't have to tell you this, but I will anyway. You absolutely *know* that you can date lots of other stupid bastards out there, just not him. You apparently don't know how to love wisely, but surely, it has been established that you do know how to love well.

"Looking back over the years that we've been together, I can't help but wonder... What was I thinking?"

"Congratulations on your wedding day! Too bad nobody likes your wife."

"I've always wanted to have someone to hold, someone to love. After having met you, I've changed my mind."

"I must admit you brought religion to my life. I never believed in Hell until I met you."

"As the days go by, I think of how lucky I am that you're not here to ruin it for me."

"As we grow older, I think of all the gifts you've given me. Like the need for therapy..."

"Thanks for being a part of my life! I never did understand what 'SOB' meant before this!"

"Someday I hope to get married, but God forbid to someone like you."

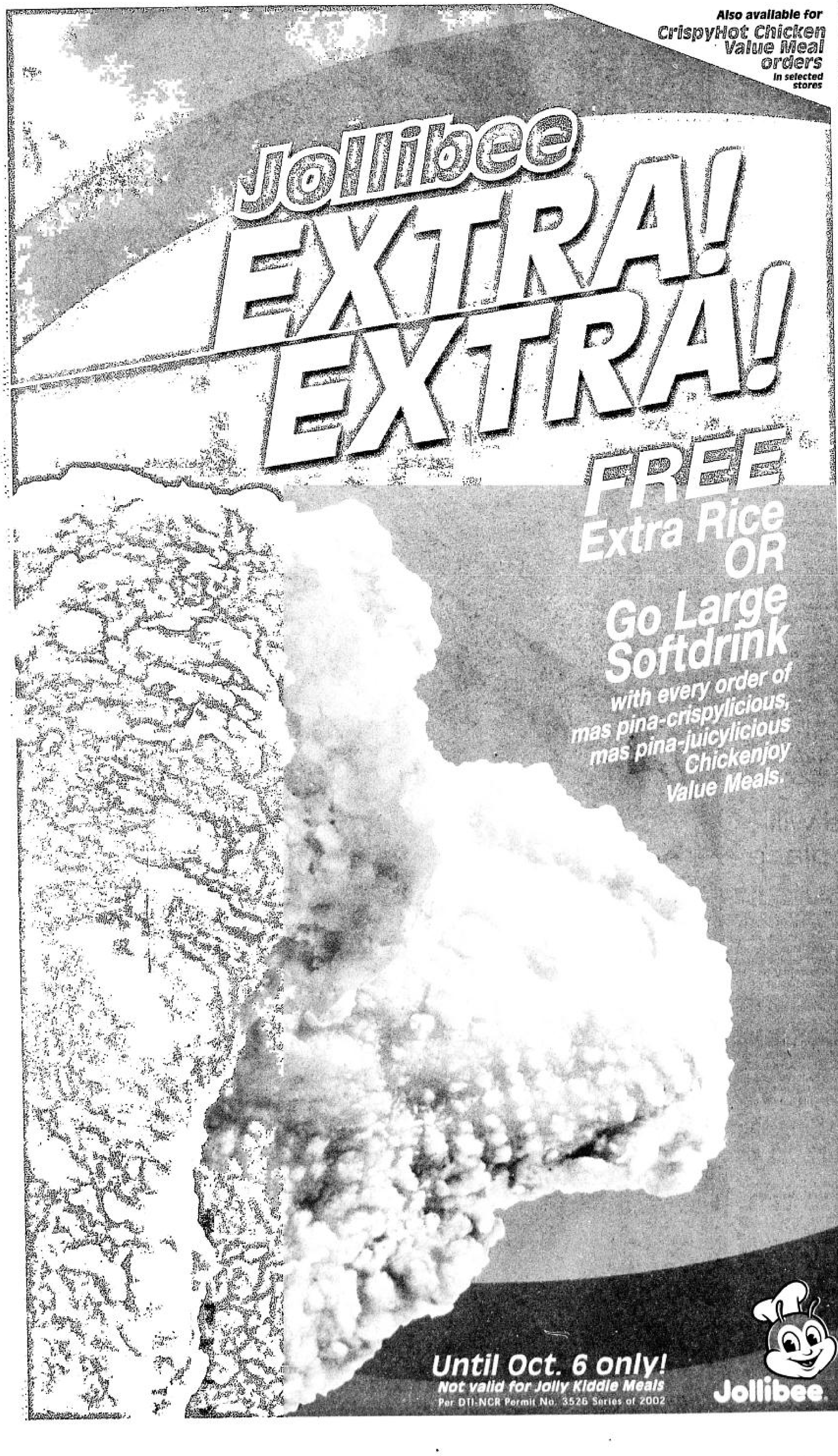
"Happy birthday! You look great for your age... Almost lifelike!

"When we were together, you always said that you'd die for me. Now that we've broken up, I think it's time you kept your promise."

"I'm so miserable without you, it's almost like you're here."

"You are such a great person that if we were on a sinking ship and there was only one life jacket, I'd miss you and think of you often."

"Your friends and I wanted to do something special for your birthday—so we're having you put to sleep."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